

U.S. dissatisfied with peace talks

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The State Department said Friday it was unhappy with the progress in the Middle East peace talks and called on Israeli and Arab delegations to get the necessary backing from home to push ahead. "We are not yet satisfied that enough progress has been made or that the delegations have enough authority to go beyond familiar positions," said spokesman Michael McCurry. "They need that authority to move where the process needs to go next," he said. The current round of talks which began here June 15 closes next Thursday and none of the delegations have reported any real progress in their bilateral and have called on the United States to step in (see story below). "I think we have done our best to help the parties to bridge their differences," Mr. McCurry said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يوتيسياية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

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Volume 17 Number 5340

AMMAN SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 1993 MUHARRAM 6, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

Regent meets Aziz

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday received at the Royal Court Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, who was on his way from Geneva to Baghdad. Mr. Aziz briefed Prince Hassan on the outcome of the talks he had with United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali and the situation in Iraq. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Israelis unhappy with Rabin's peace policy

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A majority of Israelis do not agree with the way the government is conducting the Middle East peace talks, according to a survey published Friday. The Yediot Aharonot newspaper found 59 per cent disagreed. Some 32 per cent thought the government's peace policy was "not very good" and 27 per cent "not good." But 34 per cent found the policy good and seven per cent very good.

Israeli helicopters hit DFLP office

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Israeli helicopter gunships blasted rockets into a Palestinian group's office in a South Lebanon refugee camp on Friday, wounding a man, witnesses said. Two helicopters fired four rockets into the one-storey office of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) in the heart of Al Bus refugee camp, they said. A member of the DFLP working in the building was slightly wounded.

Israelis arrest 3, wound eight

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli soldiers arrested three wanted Palestinians and shot and wounded eight Arabs in separate incidents Friday in the occupied Gaza Strip, the army and Palestinian sources said. Also on the Gaza masked men shot and killed Ahmad Abdul Al Rissa, 24, whom they accused of collaborating with the Israeli authorities, Palestinian sources said.

Nathan gets Libyan visa

TUNIS (AP) — Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan said Friday he had been issued a visa to visit Libya, where he hopes to meet Muammar Qadhafi to promote Jewish-Libyan relations. Mr. Nathan, however, told reporters he planned to leave by road for the Libyan border Saturday.

OAU to mediate in Libya dispute

CAIRO (AFP) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) will try to mediate in the West's dispute with Libya over the 1989 bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, OAU sources said Friday. African foreign ministers meeting here have decided to ask Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who is to assume the OAU chairmanship after the pan-African organisation's summit in Cairo next week, to use his "good offices" to settle the dispute.

Germany's SPD elects new chief

ESSEN (AFP) — Germany's opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) Friday installed a new president, Rudolf Scharping, in a centward shift towards ending a 10-year spell in the political wilderness. Mr. Scharping, 45-year-old premier of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, was also installed as the party's champion in the 1994 race for the chancellorship against the veteran Helmut Kohl.

Wheeler becomes N. Ireland minister

LONDON (AFP) — John Wheeler, a 53-year-old Conservative member of parliament and former assistant prison warden, was Friday named to succeed John Mates, who Thursday resigned under fire as junior minister for Northern Ireland. Mr. Wheeler has been on the Tory backbenches 14 years (see page 8).

King ends official visit to U.S. on highly successful note



His Majesty King Hussein with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the State Department on Thursday (AFP photo).

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Friday ended an 11-day state visit to the U.S. seen as having achieved success in mending bilateral relations and establishing a better rapprochement with the administration of Bill Clinton. Both American and Jordanian officials said the visit of the King, who met with President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, senior American administration officials as well as leading congressmen, was highly successful, particularly that the Monarch clearly conveyed Jordan's position on various regional and international issues and secured American pledges of support.

The king, who is accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, was scheduled to leave Washington for Rochester, Minnesota, where he was to undergo medical check-ups at the Mayo Clinic. King Hussein capped his visit to the U.S. capital with meetings with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Senate leaders Thomas Mitchell (Democrat) and

Robert Dole (Republican).

Mr. Christopher's discussion with the King covered the Middle East peace process as well as other issues including the democratisation process under way in Jordan.

He paid tribute to Jordan's consistent support for the peace process. Mr. Christopher called on the parties to the 20-month-old Middle East peace negotiations to focus on "substantive problems" — and "not be diverted by procedural changes."

The secretary also publicly reaffirmed the Clinton administration's commitment to letters of assurance given to the parties prior to the October 1991 Madrid Conference that began the current search for Middle East peace.

The negotiations resumed on June 15 after a month-long recess. They involve direct peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours — Syria, Lebanon and Jordan — and discussions between Israeli and Palestinian representatives on interim self-governing arrangements for the occupied territories.

Welcoming King Hussein to the State Department for a luncheon, Mr. Christopher told reporters at a photo session that the United States is "indebted to him for his consistent support of the peace process in the Middle East."

"He's been a leader in this area for some time and I'm very grateful to have him assisting us in trying to move that process forward," the secretary said.

Describing the Monarch as "a long-time friend of the United States," Mr. Christopher said: "We're most admiring of the steps that the King has taken toward democratisation in his country. They've been very progressive and very desirable steps." He also praised Jordan's enforcement of United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

King Hussein said he was impressed by President Clinton's "determination to contribute his utmost for the establishment of a just, comprehensive and durable peace in our region.... Our ideas are the same, objectives, principles that we uphold, and we hope that we can contribute towards a breaking of a new dawn of peace

and a better future for the generations to come in our region."

Responding to questions from reporters, Mr. Christopher said the United States remains "committed to the letters of assurances that were given in connection with the Madrid Conference and the restarting of the peace negotiations. We've indicated that to the parties as the process was restarted here in the United States."

"We're working closely with the parties in that difficult subject," he continued. "We've been in close touch with all the bilateral negotiations. They are at a substantive level and the parties are grappling with some extremely difficult issues."

Asked about Syrian and Israeli suggestions that some changes might be required in the Madrid format for the negotiations, Mr. Christopher responded: "We think that the emphasis ought to be on dealing with the substantive problems. I'm not sure that there's any need for process or procedural changes. The main goal of the United

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Christopher, Rabin 'exchange ideas' as delegates await action

Combined Agency dispatches

U.S. SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher discussed a new proposal for an Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles in talks Friday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Sources close to Mr. Rabin said in Tel Aviv the conversation took place over the telephone. They did not elaborate.

The Israeli and Palestinian delegations said this week in Washington that the United States was expected to make a new proposal to bridge the gap between the two sides.

In Washington Israeli and Palestinian delegates said they were hoping the United States would step in before peace talks wrap up next week to put their negotiations back on track.

U.S. intervention could come in the form of a new plan for Palestinian self-rule in the occu-

pled territories, according to the Palestinian delegation's spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

"We have explained our concept of the plan in detail to State Department officials over the past 10 days and we believe they will come up with their own," Dr. Ashrawi said.

"We do not know, however, what they will present," she added, noting that her side was most concerned over Israel's approach to East Jerusalem.

A source close to the Israeli delegation said the U.S. document could be submitted early next week, just a few days before this round of peace talks in Washington ends July 1.

During the last session which ended May 13, U.S. officials presented a draft text outlining principles for a compromise solution, but the Palestinians rejected the plan arguing that it sided too much with the Israelis.

Since this round began June 15, the U.S. team has worked actively from the sidelines with Dennis Ross's six-month appointment as a special Mideast coordinator an indication of the importance Washington places on the Mideast peace process.

Mr. Rabin meanwhile told a news conference that the main stumbling block in the negotiations with the Palestinians was the "gap separating our approaches to resolving the conflict."

Mr. Rabin said Israel has opposed to "mixing the period of interim self-government and the final status (of the occupied territories)."

"The Palestinians want the first phase to pave the way for the final status. They want immediate jurisdiction over all the territories and this is totally unacceptable

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ESCWA to stay here for 1 more year

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will continue to base its operation in Amman until Aug. 1994 after receiving the approval of United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for a one-year extension.

A spokesman at the U.N. commission told the Jordan Times Friday that the recommendation on the extension was approved "pending the decision by ESCWA's 13 member states on a permanent base for the commission."

The recommendation was made by Dr. Sabah Bajajji, a former minister of planning from Syria, who took charge of the commission in February of this year.

Three countries — Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq — have made formal applications to host the commission after the Gulf war forced it to move from its permanent headquarters in Baghdad in 1990 to a temporary base in Amman.

"A meeting of the member states will be held in Beirut later this year to decide on a permanent base for the commission," the spokesman said.

ESCWA is one of five regional commissions with a mandate to promote regional cooperation and social welfare in the world.

Other commissions include the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (based in Bangkok), the Economic Commission of Europe (based in Geneva), the Economic Commission of Africa (based in Addis Ababa) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean which is based in Santiago, Chile.

"The 350 U.S. regional commission member staff will take this opportunity to resume implementation of resolutions adopted by its member states during their meeting in Amman Aug. 93," the ESCWA spokesman said Friday.

8 suspects in 'bombing plots' said linked to New York blast

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Eight men accused of plotting bombings and murders appear to be part of a network involved in the World Trade Centre bombing and the assassination of a radical Jewish leader.

The eight, arrested Thursday and held without bail, hoped to reinforce the message sent by the Feb. 26 bombing that killed six and injured more than 1,000. "We can get you anytime," as the alleged mastermind reportedly told an informant.

"Law enforcement's answer is: 'no, you cannot,'" U.S. attorney Mary Jo White said at a news conference.

The arrests were carried out with little time to spare. The group was within days of completing their explosives and executing their plan, a top federal investigator said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) said the targets this time were the United Nations, a federal office building and the Lincoln and Holland

commuter tunnels. Two men from the Sudanese U.N. mission planned to help the alleged conspirators, the ABC television programme "nightline" reported late Thursday.

Security in New York was tightened to its highest level since the 1991 Gulf war after the arrest of the eight fundamentalists who are also accused of plotting to assassinate two world leaders.

"Nightline" also said Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the exiled radical Egyptian cleric, was believed to have discussed targets and methods with ringleaders of the alleged bombing plot arrested on Thursday.

"Nightline" host Ted Koppel said the two Sudanese attached to their country's U.N. mission apparently enjoyed diplomatic immunity.

Mr. Koppel said they were expected to be declared persona non grata and expelled from the United States in the next few days.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who is fighting deportation from the Un-

ited States, denied any role in the plot after federal agents searched his home.

He said Siddiq Ibrahim Siddiq Ali, arrested as an alleged ring-leader in the plot, had been a translator for him and was a "fine young man."

FBI agents swooped on a New York "safe house," early Thursday, arresting five Muslim fundamentalists alleged to have been mixing chemicals to make bombs. Three others were arrested elsewhere in the New York area.

They were charged with plotting to bomb the United Nations headquarters, the two highway tunnels under the Hudson River and the federal office building that houses the New York offices of the FBI and other agencies.

Investigators also said the group planned to assassinate U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, who is a keen supporter of Israel.

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Decision on rights supremo put off

VIENNA (Agencies) — Western and developing nations failed Friday to settle a dispute over the appointment of a human rights supremo.

Negotiators at the 160-nation World Human Rights Conference decided after seven hours of heated debate to put off any decision on a U.N. rights commissioner and referred the issue to the next session of the U.N. general assembly in New York.

Delegates, struggling over a divisive vote on Thursday over the war in Bosnia, worked late into the afternoon to complete details of a landmark new declaration to promote rights around the world.

Diplomats at the two-week conference, the first of its kind for 25 years, said the document marked an important step forward even though plans to get tough with rights violators looked set for the back-burner.

As a drafting committee haggled over the last details of a draft text, delegates forecast that the final declaration might not be approved by a full session of the conference until late on Friday night or even Saturday.

Plans for U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to address the end of the conference were called off. Officials said he was going to Cairo for an Organisation of African Unity summit.

They did not say if the conference delay was to blame.

The proposed commissioner would have the power to probe human rights abuses and report an offending country to the U.N. Security Council.

Western countries strongly backed the proposal as one of the few action points in the 33-page final declaration. But communist and some Third World countries, fearful Western interference in

their affairs, tried to water it down.

Delegates said Egypt had proposed a feasibility study on the idea which would put off the appointment indefinitely.

But Namibian President Sam Nujoma praised the idea, saying it "would significantly enhance the protection of human rights for the next century."

Efforts to draw up a final declaration were thrown into disarray on Thursday when Islamic states led by Pakistan called on delegates to adopt a controversial statement on Bosnia urging that Muslims there be exempted from a U.N. arms embargo (see page 8).

The declaration was passed by 88 votes to one, but 54 Western and other countries abstained, arguing it violated a "gentleman's agreement" not to mention specific countries at the conference.

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Questions remain hanging in air as stock market boom seen picking up

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Trading in the Amman stock market cooled off during last week following the reaffirmation of a Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) policy of restricting commercial credits, but brokers and investors expect the boom in the market to resume and continue until shares stabilise themselves before the end of the year.

But the key question remains unanswered: How strong and sweeping will be the expected stabilisation? Will it mean a dramatic plunge in a market where officials see prices as inflated and over-

valued? Or will it be of a limited nature?

No broker, investor or official is able to answer this question. Opinion is evenly split that the share prices hit touched the ceiling and measures should be undertaken to address the situation before it gets out of hand and inflicts massive losses to investors.

Even two senior officials closely involved in advising the government on the economy and its workings and who share the same floor at a ministry differ dramatically on the issue.

"Stock prices have been inflated and overvalued in the last two years," said one of

them. "We are really on dangerous grounds now and it is time the authorities did something to restrain the market so that massive losses could be avoided for the people."

"How could anyone justify the multi-fold difference between the par value and market value of the shares of some companies and banks?" he said.

"The concerned companies are not worth the total market value of their shares."

His colleague down the corridor disagrees totally. "I believe that a close look indicates that increases of any significance involve a few selected companies and banks which are strong and sound," said the

official. "After all, we are moving fast towards a free market economy and the authorities should let events shape themselves as long as no state funds are involved and no irregularities are taking place in the market."

Economic experts say it is unlikely that the Amman Financial Market (AFM) will witness a repetition of the ill-famous \$90 billion collapse of Kuwait's Al Manakh market in the mid-1980s. They point out that trading at AFM is supported by real funds unlike the post-dated cheques which bounced and brought down Al Manakh.

"There will be losses when the market corrects itself by the end of the year, with investors closely watching the performance of the various companies," said an official who monitors the AFM. "But then, the losers will only have themselves to blame for not having moved in time to adjust their standings."

In the meantime, AFM figures showed that the volume of trading during last week (four days of business since Monday was a holiday) was JD 28 million compared with the JD 57 million registered during the previous week (five days of business).

Brokers said the decline was the immediate result of confusion among investors sparked by a CBJ move to limit commercial bank credits for trading in stocks.

The CBJ told commercial banks that they could not lend investors more than 50 per cent of the value of shares, down from 75 per cent.

The CBJ reaffirmation of this restriction was redundant, bankers say. "By and large commercial banks never exceeded this limit since they realise better than anyone else there is no guarantee that their beneficiaries would reap profits and remain strong and in a position to fulfill their obligations," said the manager of a leading Jordanian bank.

Notwithstanding this argument, the effect of the CBJ move, according to brokers, was "semi-panic," among speculators who feared an immediate depletion of funds from the market.

"Although it became clear in a few days that there was no such thing happening, there was an immediate five to six per cent decline in stock prices," said a broker, who, like others, insisted on anonymity. "But many held on to their shares and stayed away from trading, and this explains the low volume registered last week."

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Russia to process Iraqi nuclear fuel

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Russia has won a contract to take radioactive Iraqi fuel that could have been used in making a nuclear bomb, a United Nations spokesman said Friday.

Spokesman Jan Fischer revealed this shortly after a team of 10 U.N. nuclear inspectors headed for Baghdad, on a mission partly to help arrange for the removal of the fuel and partly to help ensure that Iraq does not resurrect its nuclear programme.

U.N. inspectors say Iraq had been only a few years away from building a nuclear bomb before it invaded Kuwait in August 1990. "That (nuclear) programme is out of business," Mr. Fischer said.

But he said it was important for the inspectors to visit regularly to seek responses to unanswered questions and to be sure equipment like sophisticated machine tools are no longer used in the programme.

"They are going to fill in some gaps and make sure that what they know about is not being used to restart a new programme," said Mr. Fischer, chief of the field office of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) set up to destroy Iraq's dangerous weapons.

And they will be making detailed arrangements for the eventual evacuation of about 40 kilograms of irradiated fuel, which Mr. Fischer said would have been enough for use in one or two bombs if Iraq had reached that stage.

The 10-member team was headed by Bob Kelley, an American nuclear weapons expert from Los Alamos, New Mexico.

No date for transporting the weapons-grade fuel has been fixed. But Mr. Fischer told the Associated Press that Moscow has won a bid to buy the fuel, which Iraq had bought several years ago from the former Soviet Union and France, ostensibly for peaceful purposes.

Iranian cleric says U.S. behind terrorism in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior Iranian cleric Friday accused the United States of sponsoring "terrorist" activities in Iran and ruled out any reconciliation between the two countries, Tehran Radio reported.

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati was addressing worshippers after Friday prayers at Tehran University, said the radio, monitored in Nicosia.

"It is the United States which is responsible for these terrorist activities in Iran," he said, apparently referring to a recent upsurge in attacks by the Iranian opposition.

"And then they say we are terrorists," he said.

Ayatollah Jannati's diatribe was the latest outburst in a cold war that has raged between Tehran and Washington since relations were severed in 1979, shortly after the Islamic revolution.

The Clinton administration has branded Iran "the world's most dangerous state sponsor of terrorism" and is pressing its allies to boycott the Islamic republic. The campaign that has incensed fundamentalist radicals.

The Iranians accuse Washington of extending funds and political backing to Iran's main opposition group, the Iraq-based Mujahadeen-e-Khalq.

The Mujahadeen, which operates a large office in Washington but has no official links with the U.S. government, have taken responsibility for a series of explosions at Iranian oil facilities and other targets close to the Iran-Iraq border.

These attacks have escalated tension between the two Gulf adversaries, who fought the 1980-

A special U.N.-flagged, Soviet-built Antonov 124 plane will be used to transport the fuel to Moscow before the end of the year. The plane, according to U.N. officials, would be adapted to ensure that even in the event of a crash, there would be no leakage of radiation.

The operation would be the first of its kind as such material in the past was moved by ship.

The fuel had been moved from Thawatha, Iraq's main nuclear research establishment west of Baghdad, after the facility was bombed by U.S. warplanes during the Gulf war.

It has since been stored in a special steel-lined, concrete depot in farmlands five kilometres north of the facility under the supervision of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Mr. Kelley's team was the 20th from the IAEA to travel to Iraq since the weapons elimination process began after the 1991 Gulf war.

Some 38 other teams have been destroying chemicals and biological weapons, ballistic missiles and plants that produced such arsenals.

Iraqis have resisted some of these teams.

Nikita Smidovitch, a UNSCOM official, remained locked in a standoff with the Iraqis over installation of monitoring cameras at two missile sites.

Iraq has refused to accept long-term monitoring of its weapons sites.

Mr. Smidovitch and his accompanying team, have been in Iraq since June 4.

The U.N. Security Council met on June 18 and warned Iraq of grave consequences if it did not relent.

A next day, Iraq said it was willing to cooperate fully with the Security Council's resolutions if it obtained assurances that economic sanctions, in force since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, would be lifted.

Activists demand end to ADC 'spying'

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) President Albert Mokhiber has called on the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) to apologise for its "spying" on American citizens and to discontinue the practice.

At a June 22 news conference in front of ADL's national headquarters in Washington — which followed a lengthy protest by some 45 picketers — Mr. Mokhiber pointed to the recent case in California, where, according to press reports, authorities are investigating allegations that the ADL maintained a private intelligence network which illegally tapped into police records to call information on some 12,000 people.

ADL "agents" reportedly admitted selling information on anti-apartheid activists to South African intelligence agents, Mr. Mokhiber said, thus generating "fears that similar information on Palestinian, Central American and Irish political activists in the United States may have been provided to governments hostile

to right to participate in political activities, as guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution.

Joining Mr. Mokhiber in protesting the alleged ADL surveillance were spokespersons of other ethnic organisations who said they have been the targets of such ADL spying.

Asked to comment on the protest, ADL spokesman Michael Lieberman said: "This demonstration is based on grossly distorted and groundless accusations against the ADL."

"Many of the groups involved in this demonstration," he added, "have a long record of hostility to the Jewish community — such as the Jewish community — such as the security of the state of Israel."

And, Mr. Lieberman added: "Contrary to allegations, ADL has never targeted civil rights groups for investigations and we have never targeted any individual on the basis of his or her race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation."

Mr. Mokhiber said that "for years, ADL has attempted to discredit Arab-American and

other political activists who are critical of Israeli policy. Roy Bullock, the ADL paid spy, it has now been revealed, infiltrated our own ADC chapters."

The ADC, he said, finds it "most disconcerting" that the ADL, "a civil rights organisation with a commendable history of work for American minorities, has taken it upon itself to spy upon a whole range of other civil rights and progressive organisations" which should be "allies, sharing the same values."

Also joining in the news conference were Angela Sanbrano, executive director of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES); Cynthia Johnson, co-director of the Women Strike for Peace; Betsy Swart, representing the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; Rita Mullin, representative of the Irish National Caucus; and Benito Torres, of the Washington Peace Centre.

Mr. Mokhiber said the ADC and the other organisations plan to continue picketing the ADL on a weekly basis, until the ADL responds positively to their demands.

Britain describes 'Major-Hogg letter' as fabrication

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British embassy in Amman Thursday issued a sharp denial regarding the letter purportedly from the British prime minister, John Major, to the Foreign Office minister, Douglas Hogg.

The embassy said the letter was a complete fabrication and an "obvious and clumsy fake."

"We are treating it with the contempt it deserves," a spokesman said. "No reputable newspaper or organisation in the Middle East or elsewhere has implied that the letter is genuine," he added.

"The letter is clearly a fabrication and attentive readers will have noted that it contains a number of spelling mistakes and diverges from the usual form of such letters," an embassy statement said.

The embassy spokesperson said it would be "utterly untrue" to say that British foreign policy is based on religious grounds. The declaration on Bosnia-Herzegovina at the European Council in Copenhagen (June 21-22) reflects the true basis of British policy in Bosnia.

"The European Council reaffirms its conviction that a negotiated settlement has to be based on the principles of the Vance-Owen peace plan, particularly the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the protection of human rights and the rights of minorities, the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force, the vital need for humanitarian aid to be provided and reach those in need, the prosecution of war crimes and breaches of international humanitarian law."

The embassy statement said: "The British government have been at the forefront of efforts to bring about a cessation of hostilities and provide local citizens of all religious nomination with humanitarian relief. It is our firm belief that lifting the arms embargo now would accelerate the deterioration in Bosnia and precipitate the withdrawal of aid effort, leading to famine in Bosnia this winter and bringing to an end the concept of safe areas."

The international community would stand helpless as fighting spread and led to a long and savage war with no relief for its victims."

Baker urges U.S. to get tough with Mideast parties

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the architect of the Middle East peace conference, has urged the United States to adopt a tougher approach as co-sponsor of the talks.

"The U.S. (should) let the parties know, that they do not automatically have the full-time attention — and treasury if you want — of the U.S. to pursue this," Mr. Baker told Friday's Jerusalem Post.

"Secondly, let everybody understand that this is an historic moment or chance... this isn't going to last forever," Baker said in his first public remarks on the region since he left office in January.

"And so the parties are going to have to be willing to give, there has to be some give on both sides."

"The Palestinians are going to have to accept the ground rules. They're going to have to accept the fact that interim self-government comes before you start talking about what the permanent arrangements are going to be."

"And Israel for her part is going to have to show some flexibility too if she's really as serious about this as I think she is."

Mr. Baker called for the new administration to adopt his "package" approach to the negotiations.

"Everybody is for peace, nobody wants to take the steps that are required. So you need to come up with, you need to craft and construct some package approaches."

"Let the parties know... the U.S. will remain involved, but only so long as there is realistic approach on the part of the parties themselves."

"The U.S. can't make peace... it's going to take good faith on the part of each and every one of the parties. I think you have a better shot at that when you approach it on a package approach."

"Mr. Baker said he took a "rather aggressive approach" to launch the process in Madrid in October 1991.

A 10th round of bilateral negotiations opened in Washington on June 15 but has failed to achieve progress.

Expellees call for evacuation of 60 from tent camp

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (Agencies) — The spokesman for 396 Palestinians exiled in South Lebanon appealed Friday for the evacuation of 60 expellees who he said are ill and need proper medical care.

Abdul Aziz Rantisi asked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to evacuate the group, including 10 who are seriously ill, from the Marj Al Zohour tent camp between Israeli and Lebanese army lines.

Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to Lebanon on Dec. 17 after it linked them to militant groups that killed a border guard and soldiers.

The ICRC has since arranged for the return to the Israeli-occupied territories of 19 expellees who were sick or expelled in error. One mentally disturbed man whom Israel has allowed to return is still awaiting evacuation.

Israel has also offered to take back 126 exiles immediately and the rest by the end of the year, but the exiles have refused saying Israel should return all of them at once in line with a U.N. resolution adopted on Dec. 18.

"I appeal to the Red Cross and international humanitarian organisations to work swiftly for the transfer of the sick deportees," Mahmoud Al Zahar, a doctor and expellee leader, told reporters Friday.

Dr. Zahar said he had a list of more than 60 sick deportees — including 10 who needed immediate hospitalisation, 16 who have various cartilage problems and two with severe diabetes.

He said contacts were under way with the (ICRC) to secure the transfer of 28 to hospitals.

Israel last week approved an ICRC request for the evacuation of a mentally ill exile, Ali Abu Ajweh.

Mr. Zahar said Abu Ajweh topped his list of exiles who needed hospitalisation and he would show the ICRC officials the list.

Exiles were preparing Friday to receive electricity in their 60 tents from a large generator smuggled to them by the pro-Israeli Movement Hizbollah (Party of God).

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. sees no unusual Iraqi activity towards Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States sees no unusual activity by Iraq on its border with Iran, a U.S. official said Thursday. The official was responding to a New York Times story Thursday that quoted American officials as saying Iraq had moved some troops closer to the Iranian border and put its air defences on high alert in its largest military mobilisation since the 1991 Gulf war. "We don't believe that there is any special effort or operation against Iran at this time," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The official told Reuters the United States "feels Iraq has in its routine military posture substantial forces adequate to launch an attack in the north, south or along this border" with Iran. "What we see now is nothing out of the ordinary," he said. The New York Times said intelligence officials have said the flurry of activity appears to reflect Baghdad's fears of an Iranian attack rather than plans of an offensive of its own. The official who spoke to Reuters said that while that may have been the conclusion of government analysts when they first received "raw" intelligence data, further analysis had led to the conclusion he was now stating. The official said all Iraq's activities seemed to be defensive in nature at this time.

EC gives \$13m for Iraqi refugees

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Community has allocated 11.5 million ECU (\$13.25 million) to finance humanitarian aid for Kurds in northern Iraq and Shiites in southern Iraq, the European Commission said Thursday. It said in a statement that there were still many refugees in the two regions, more than two years after the Gulf war in 1991, and that there was a pressing need for emergency medical and food aid. The commission added that water, sanitary facilities and affordable heating and cooking fuel were also scarce in the two regions. Since the Gulf war, the commission has given 120 million ECUs (\$138 million) in relief aid for Iraq.

Drug users may face execution in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's top anti-drug officer has said police rounded up 8,615 addicts in a five-day sweep and added that repeat offenders might be executed. General Ali Shafiei, quoted by Iranian television late Wednesday, said police also arrested 882 drug dealers, busted 13 smuggling rings and seized 2,238 kilograms of drugs from June 16 to 20. "The law sets execution as punishment for drug users who are arrested for addiction for a third time," the television quoted Gen. Shafiei as saying. Iran has executed well over a thousand traffickers and dealers since 1979, when possession of 30 grammes of heroin or five kilograms of opium became a capital offence. But no one was reported executed for just using drugs. Addicts arrested for the first time are usually detoxicated in rehabilitation centres and released. Tehran newspapers say many go back to drugs. There are an estimated one million drug users in Iran, which lies on a drug route from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Europe. Gen. Shafiei said drug seizures in the current Iranian year which started on March 21 were so far running ahead of last year's. The five-day haul included opium, morphine and hashish, he said. Iran seized 65 tonnes of narcotics in the last Iranian year.

Quiz show based on Koran for Arab market

LONDON (R) — Arab and Muslim countries are to be offered a new television quiz show and board game based on the Koran, producers said Thursday. Independent British production company Action Time said the show, to be called "Our Islam," had been given the backing of Muslim leaders and the Saudi Arabian Information Ministry. The company expects to broadcast the show to several countries. "There is a developing market for light entertainment television in Arab countries," a spokesman said. "Obviously we are having to be very careful about this but it will be something a bit like 'trivial pursuit' based on the Koran." Waddingtons, the makers of "Monopoly," are producing the board game.

Israeli diplomats probed on currency scam

TEL AVIV (R) — The South African ambassador said Thursday his government was satisfied with Israel's investigation of an alleged currency scam by two Israeli diplomats in Pretoria. A source at the Israeli embassy in Pretoria said the South African reserve bank and the Israeli government were investigating the personal accounts of Hagai Regev and Aharon Dagan. They are suspected of having tried to transfer \$500,000 out of South Africa for Israelis and South African Jews. South African Ambassador to Israel Malcolm Ferguson said in a statement he had discussed the case with the Israeli foreign ministry. He said his government was "entirely satisfied that the issue is being properly dealt with and by the embassy of Israel in Pretoria." South Africa, he said, accepted "that these were on the face of it, inappropriate individual actions by members of the Israeli embassy staff." Israeli press reports said the two had served as Israeli defence ministry representatives in South Africa and were no longer working there. The ministry said it was checking the reports.

Pinochet denies plans to visit Israel

SANTIAGO (R) — General Augusto Pinochet Thursday denied he was planning to travel to Israel where ministers and members of parliament have said they oppose any visit by Chile's former military ruler. Gen. Pinochet told the private television channel Megavisión he had requested no travel papers and had not asked for an invitation from Israel or anywhere else. Israeli media have been filled with reports of a stormy debate between the defence and foreign ministries over whether to invite Gen. Pinochet, who stayed on as Chile's army commander when he handed power to a civilian government in 1990. Gen. Pinochet said he was not affected by the dispute, which he blamed on unspecified political groups in Chile. Revered by supporters for introducing free-market reforms to Chile and reviled by opponents who hold him responsible for thousands of deaths in a "dirty war" on subversion, Gen. Pinochet has been largely shunned by foreign governments.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 7711-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ... Les Aventures de l'Espace
18:30 ... Envoyé Spécial
19:00 ... News in French
19:15 ... Fenêtre sur
19:30 ... News in Hebrew
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Super Bloopers
21:00 ... Not Another Science Show
21:45 ... News in English
22:00 ... Soccer match

PRAYER TIMES

03:52 ... Fajr
05:27 ... (Sunrise) Duha
12:38 ... Dhuhr
16:18 ... Asr
19:49 ... Maghrib
21:25 ... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627873
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 437420

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
TerraNova Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 854922
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The heatwave which affected Jordan during the past week will start to abate Saturday. Therefore, a gradual drop in temperatures and rise in humidity will take place and winds will be north-westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly fresh and sea calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 21 / 32
Aqaba 25 / 37
Djerab 19 / 35
Jordan Valley 24 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36, Aqaba 40, Humidity readings: Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Yousef Al Fajih 756988
Dr. Khalid Mu'addi 743500
Dr. Mohammad Sawas 732056
Yacoub pharmacy 620115
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 626762
Al Salam pharmacy 636739
Al Nahdha pharmacy 644945
Shajib pharmacy 637640
Najib pharmacy 847632

DRBD:
Dr. Ali Shuqani (—)

Al Ouda Pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim (—)
Khalid pharmacy 95417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 620211, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Amman Municipality 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 866390
Public Security Department 630231
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 775121
Complaints 775121
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 690100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636361
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53201

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 818131/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
Al-Musader Hospital 845045
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Musader 777101/3
Army, Marka 891611/15
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/15
Queen Alia Hospital 662240/50
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)902500
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hilma Modern Hospital (09)999790

DRBD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)723555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
08:15 New Delhi (RJ)
08:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
08:30 Cam, Aqaba (RJ)
11:30 Colombo (RJ)
11:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
11:30 Beirut (RJ)
18:25 Istanbul (RJ)

18:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:15 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
19:20 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
22:30 London, Beirut (RJ)
22:30 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:30 Sanaa (Y)
19:25 Rome (AZ)
20:35 Cairo (MS)
21:45 Dubai, Damascus (EM)
21:45 Larnaca (CY)
21:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:45 Beirut (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)
12:45 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:50 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:35 London (RJ)
19:45 Cairo (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 Larnaca (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
06:45 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
07:05 Larnaca (CY)
09:15 Beirut (RJ)
09:50 Bahrain (GF)
12:30 Cairo (MS)
21:25 Dubai (EM)
22:45 Damascus, Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700 / 700
Banana 600 / 600
Banana (Mukammal) 620 / 620
Beans 440 / 440
Cabbage 100 / 100
Carrot 300 / 200
Cauliflower 180 / 120
Cucumbers (large) 70 / 30
Cucumbers (small) 150 / 100
Eggplant 120 / 100
Garlic 600 / 100
Lemon 600 / 500
Marrow (large) 1400 / 900
Marrow (small) 250 / 120
Mint 180 / 100
Onion (dry) 340 / 200
Orange 160 / 120
Pepper (hot) 240 / 180
Pepper (sweet) 180 / 120
Potato 180 / 120
Tomato 80 / 40



CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Thursday receives British Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Evers at the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF). Mr. Evers presented the fund with a cheque of \$27,200 for the third and final stage of a project of setting up Women's Enterprise Development Units at QAF's social development centres in Irbid, Mafrq, and the Hashemi area of Amman. These units aim to help local women establish small

enterprise projects, by providing them with the necessary skills such as marketing, business planning and market research. The units are established and initial training is provided by a British consulting group, the Community Education Development Centre (CEDC), sponsored by the Overseas Development Agency (ODA). As a result of this project, the Queen Alia Fund is expected to help more women to become self-employed and family incomes will be increased.

Number of drug addicts estimated at 950

AMMAN (Petra) — The estimated number of persons suffering from drug addiction in Jordan now stands at 950 and is on the increase mainly because of unemployment among youth, according to the Public Security Department (PSD).

The estimated was announced Friday by Hisham Ensour, head of PSD's Anti-Narcotics division on the eve of Jordan's observance Saturday of the world day for combating drugs.

The sale and use of illicit drugs are crimes in Jordan.

Of the 950 drug users, police authorities have apprehended 818 between 1983 and 1992, said Col. Ensour.

In the last three years, ending in 1992, Col. Ensour said authorities arrested 320 users.

He said the addiction rate in the country is about three persons for every 10,000 citizens.

But he added that indications are that illicit drug usage is on the rise.

Col. Ensour said combating drug addiction requires the close cooperation of the private and public sectors and social institutions. He stressed that it is the duty of the family and parents to guard against this danger.

Col. Ensour explained that the rapid changes in society's structure witnessed in the country over the past decade, demographic changes, unemployment and the return to Jordan of a large number of expatriates were among the main reasons for the increase in the drug problem, especially among young people.

Addiction, he warned has no borders and the danger is spreading from Europe and the U.S. to the Arab region at a time when reports continue about major smuggling and drug trafficking operations.

Despite the preventive measures being adopted in Jordan and other parts of the world, drug trafficking and drug addiction are becoming a dangerous problem, said Col. Ensour.

Jordan is not considered a drug consuming country by international standards, but rather a passage way for smugglers and traffickers many of whom have been arrested and their operations in Jordan aborted.

He said the PSD urges Arab and foreign countries to pool their efforts and heed international agreements and protocols on the exchange of information that would help lead to the arrest



Drug addiction is an international problem requiring cooperation among countries in efforts to combat a dangerous menace (File photo)

of perpetrators.

Coinciding with Col. Ensour's statement, the Arab Interior Minister Council in Tunis issued a statement appealing to Arab governments to spread awareness among the public on the dangers

of drugs.

The statement said that combating the problem is a common responsibility of the school, the family and the private and public institutions.

Noting that the Arab society is open to and easily affected by other societies, the statement said that drug addiction should be combated by all means and at all levels.

Conference to endorse strategy on women

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian national conference scheduled here Tuesday is expected to endorse a national strategy on women as part of Jordan's preparations for the 1995 Peking International Women's Conference.

At a meeting Thursday under the chairmanship of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, a task force was formed to prepare for the conference and present the strategy at Tuesday's meeting as well as at the 1995 Peking conference.

The Princess, who is to lead the Jordanian delegation to the Peking meeting, reviewed the main points of the national strategy and the Jordanian women's participation in the international meeting.

Expressing her delight at women's contributions to the various social and economic activities in Jordan, Princess Basma urged women's unions to double their efforts and activities at international forums.

The task force members include: Inaam Mufti, Haifaa Al Bashir, Haifaa Abu Ghazaleh, Emily Naffa'a, Amal Al Farhan, Siham Al Qasem and Burhaina Jardaneh.

Dr. Abu Ghazaleh, who is president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women, noted in an address Princess Basma's continued support for women's unions and their drive to promote the status of women in urban, rural and badia regions and in backing efforts towards involving women in the ongoing process of social and economic development.

Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sagor, was present at the meeting, said that the Jordanian delegation to the Peking conference was planning to play a key role and contribute significantly towards promoting the role of women.

Princess Sarvath opens documentary photo exhibit at Oxford University

AMMAN (J.T.) — On behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan last week opened a photographic exhibition by Wilfred Thesiger at the Pitt Rivers Museum of Oxford University.

The exhibition, entitled "A Most Cherished Possession," was attended by over 200 politicians, dignitaries, senior academics and members of the university.

Wilfred Thesiger, who now lives in northern Kenya, is considered one of the greatest explorer-travellers and travel writers of this century. His journeys are documented in several books, two of which are considered some of the greatest classics in travel literature.

In addressing the gathering, Princess Sarvath described the

exhibition as being a collection of "magnificent photographs which communicate to us a clear-eyed, yet sympathetic understanding of the peoples with whom he travelled and amongst whom he lived."

"Arabian Sands" and "The Marsh Arabs," Mr. Thesiger's documentation of his journeys in the Arab World, are considered his finest works.

The Princess described "Arabian Sands" in the words of the late John Glubb who, when reviewing the work for the British Sunday Times, said that Mr. Thesiger "wrote with the colour of real life."

The Pitt Rivers Museum, founded in 1884, is one of the most important ethnological museums in the world. In 1991, Mr. Thesiger decided to donate his photographs, his "most cherished possession," to the

museum for the long-term historical record.

As a result, the museum held this, the first photographic exhibition of Mr. Thesiger's work to be held in England, to celebrate his life and achievements as a traveller and photographer.

The exhibition was followed by a small dinner hosted by the vice chancellor of Oxford University and the president of Magdalen College in honour of Princess Sarvath and Mr. Thesiger.

The dinner was attended by various dignitaries including chairman of Barclays Bank, the director of Refugee Studies Programme at the Oxford University, the president of the Royal Geographic Society, the chairman of the National Trust and the private solicitor to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

Meeting urges increase in meat, dairy production

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day conference on promoting livestock wealth in the Arab World ended here Thursday with a call on agriculture ministries to coordinate their efforts with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in order to promote food production and ensure food security for the region's increasing population.

Underlining the need to augment red meat and dairy production in Arab states, a statement issued at the final session called on cattle breeders to work to-

wards that end on concerned authorities to provide sufficient animal feed, water supplies and other inputs and requirements to help farmers in these endeavours.

It also urged veterinary unions to increase dairy and meat production and said countries like Sudan and Egypt ought to promote the technique of artificial insemination and encourage its use in other Arab countries.

Noting that the cost of animal feed accounts for nearly 70 per cent of the total cost of meat and milk production, the statement

said Arab governments should encourage green fodder production and expand pasture lands.

The statement recommended boosting the role of cooperatives and establishing dairy council.

At the end of the meetings, which were organised by the Arab Union for Food Industries, three cattle breeding societies in Jordan were honoured and presented with meritorical certificates in recognition of their contribution towards promoting the food industrial sector in the Kingdom.

Arab-American doctors form Jordanian society

AMMAN (J.T.) — As a result of the 5-day Arab-American doctors convention which ended here Thursday, a society for Jordanian physicians in the United States was created.

A statement at the final session said that the new society, which will be headed by fertility specialist Suheil Muasher as president, was aimed at further bolstering ties of cooperation among Arab and American physicians.

The society will formulate programmes for exchanged visits, training of Jordanian physicians

and nurses and securing financial support for the Jordanian health services, said a statement read by Akram Shunnaq, the convention's rapporteur.

The participants in the convention reviewed 140 working papers, of which 40 were presented by Jordanian physicians, said Dr. Shunnaq.

They also toured archaeological and tourist sites in the Kingdom.

Dr. Shunnaq said that some participants left Friday for the West Bank to visit relatives.

CAA expects to add to RJ destinations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Before the end of the year, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) expects to reach an agreement by which Royal Jordanian (RJ) will open flight routes to Japan, Bangladesh and the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union.

CAA Director General Ahmad Jweiber told the Jordan Times recently that contacts are also underway with the Civil Aviation Authorities of these nations to examine the prospects of their national airlines operating flights to Jordan.

In the first half of 1993, said Mr. Jweiber, the CAA concluded air transport agreements with aviation authorities in China, Australia, Iran, the Ukraine, Poland and Bulgaria.

The Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) and Austria Airways recently resumed flights to Amman, raising the total number of Arab and foreign airlines landing at the Queen Alia International Airport to 18, noted Mr. Jweiber.

Not only has the number of



Ahmad Jweiber

airlines increased, Mr. Jweiber continued, but also the air freight and mail as well as the number of passengers arriving in or passing through Jordan in transit has been on the rise.

He added that this is a clear sign of Jordan's recovery from the consequences of the Gulf crisis of 1990.

Heavy penalties await careless picnickers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Interior Ministry is planning to take drastic measures against people proved to be responsible for fires in the wooded areas of Jordan.

A report in the local daily Sawt Al Shaab said Friday that Interior Minister Salameh Hamad issued strict orders to the concerned authorities to impose

penalties on those people, in line with the provisions of the 1992 Civil Defence Law.

It said that the law prohibits any lighting of fires or the use of inflammable materials in national parks, forests and other wooded regions of Jordan.

Human rights stand is strong, convincing — Sharif Fawwaz

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations European headquarters Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, who headed the Kingdom's delegation to the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, said Jordan has reiterated its adherence to the principles of democracy and human rights.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Sharif Fawwaz described Jordan's stand at the conference and at other international forums on humanitarian, political and economic issues as strong and convincing and said it has always gained the Kingdom respect and support.

The path to human rights is a long and arduous one, and needs to be based on three main elements, he said. They are the adherence of the state, the individual and the international community to human rights, he added.

He underlined the importance of non-governmental organisations in following up and monitoring the human rights situation, stressing that human rights go hand in hand with democracy.

"We in Jordan have crossed a long distance in this regard and have achieved what the conference was trying to achieve during the past 20 years. We adhere to (the principles of) democracy, allow individual freedom and give women the right to vote or run as candidates," Sharif Fawwaz said.

"Furthermore, we do not have prisoners of conscience or political detainees," he added.

He said Jordan had signed all international pacts and conventions on human rights, including the Women's Rights Charter.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Cement factory nets JD 544,000 profit

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Cement Factory Company has announced that it has accumulated a net profit of JD 544,000 from its sales in Jordan and abroad during 1992, and that it will distribute dividends to shareholders at the rate of nine per cent. The announcement was made at the company's general assembly meeting held at the Amman Chamber of Industry Thursday during which a general report about the company's operations indicated the company's sold 2.3 million tonnes of cement during last year. Out of this amount 1,041 tonnes were exported.

JEA to participate in solar power seminar in Spain

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) is to take part in a seminar on utilising solar power to generate electricity, to be held in Spain on June 28. The prospect of establishing a solar-powered electric generation unit in Jordan will be discussed during the meeting which will also look at experiments conducted in American and European countries in this field.

Ozone protection meeting to be held in Montreal

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the 10th meeting of the Executive Committee of the multi-party Montreal Fund for the Protection of the Ozone Layer scheduled during June 27-30 in Montreal. Secretary-General of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Asem Ghosheh, who will head the Jordanian delegation to the meetings, said the party will discuss national programmes in several countries to reduce the production of ozone-depleting material. Mr. Ghosheh said Jordan will present its own national programme which aims at reducing the production of ozone-depleting materials. In addition to Mr. Ghosheh, the Jordanian delegation will include officials from the Ministry's departments of environment and air protection as well as the Ministry of Planning.

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WHAT'S GOING NO EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of watercolours, entitled "Landscapes of Jordan," by Prof. Elmar Dittmann at the Phoenix Art Gallery, Gardens Street.
- ★ Paintings by Salem Al Dabagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rasan at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-6 p.m.).
- ★ Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Eshebelia Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Photo exhibition entitled "Childhood" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Team returns from ILO Geneva meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Ministry of Labour Saleh Al Tarawneh Friday returned to Amman after heading Jordan's delegation to the 80th Conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) which convened in Geneva between June 9 and 23.

At the outset of the session, the Jordanian delegation was headed by Jordan's envoy to the United Nations Geneva headquarters Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf who delivered the Kingdom's address to the conference.

It focused on the Jordanian

government's labour and employment policies and social security plans and programmes.

The address also expressed support for a report prepared by the ILO director general on Arab labourers in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

Of the most prominent issues discussed by the conferees were social security, unemployment, fighting poverty, the ILO activities, ways of preventing industrial disasters and the role of the organisation in enhancing technical cooperation.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
الرداءة للزمنة العربية السياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Right change for democracy

REPRESENTATIVES FROM all shades of Jordan's political spectrum will later this month be called to study the possibilities of changing the Election Law on the constitutional basis that all citizens are equal in rights and duties. The step is expected to generate strong opposition from members of Parliament and other political forces who have maintained that changes to the law would be neither legal nor democratic unless approved by the Lower House.

The disagreement over the legality of changing the Election Law through a temporary legislation — an issue on which parties from both sides of the fence present arguments they claim have the weight of law — will have to be settled by specialists in the appropriate forum and, until now, is a point of contention. What is crystal clear, however, is that the current law is not conducive to fair elections. On that issue, there does not seem to be much division among Jordanians.

The problems with the legislation are many: It leads to over-representation of some parts and groups in the country and to under-representation of others; it denies citizens the constitutional right to equality — one can elect more candidates than the other, and, among other things, it prevents citizens who have reached the legal age from voting.

That needs to be changed but the challenge is articulating the alternative. Having Jordanians go to the next polls under a new law that guarantees equality for all citizens without disturbing the delicate political and social balance of the country is a task which people who will undertake should approach with utmost care, objectivity and concern for the country's long-term stability and well-being.

Most of the debate about the nature of the possible change have so far centred on introducing the one-person-one-vote system to the law. Such a change, however, would not bring about the desired outcome unless it is accompanied by corresponding changes in redrawing districts, the voting age, the quota system and the bureaucracy of voters' registration.

In short, any changes to the law should be all-encompassing and designed to endure for a long time. It would be against the country's interest to keep changing the law every few years.

Jordan does need a new and fairer election law, one that ensures stability and the consolidation of democracy. But the one thing that needs to be reemphasised here is that changes in the law should not be perceived to be targeting one or other political group in particular. That could be done both by the inclusion of all political forces in the process of change and by addressing all loopholes in the current law. No political group should be given the chance to claim it was the victim of the change and thus jump on the wagon of martyrs to reach Jordan's 12th Parliament.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ENTHUSIASTIC welcome accorded to King Hussein during his current visit to the United States reflects the respect which the Monarch enjoys among nations and the much improved U.S.-Jordanian ties in the wake of the Gulf crisis, said Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily. Over the past 40 years, said Sawt Al Shaab, the King has succeeded in winning the respect of the world community, and through his efforts, he was able to gain support for Arab rights and continued backing for his struggle to attain peace in the Middle East, said the paper. The Clinton administration has listened carefully and attentively to the King's ideas and welcomed his views towards the establishment of peace and stability in the region, continued the daily. The result was that the U.S. administration has now expressed absolute willingness to act seriously and with renewed efforts to give momentum to the Arab-Israeli negotiations for the sake of attaining the aspired peace, the paper added. There is no doubt, said the paper, that the King's visit was successful and his talks with Mr. Clinton and U.S. officials have borne good fruit. It said that the visit and the fruitful talks are bound to reflect most positively on the U.S.-Jordanian relations.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour cast a pessimistic view at the outcome of the current 10th round of Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington. Mazen Hammad said that it was strange to hear U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announcing that progress was about to be achieved in the current talks as there are no signs to justify such optimism. Is it a real conception or prediction or just throwing dust in the eyes and stalling for time before the formal announcement that the talks ended in total failure? asked the writer. If progress is to be achieved in the coming few days, as Mr. Christopher claims, the U.S. secretary did not give any reasons for such optimism, neither did he mention any concessions on the part of the Israelis to help achieve some progress, said the writer. Hammad said that there has been no let-up in the obstinate Israeli stand, neither did the Israeli government ease its inhuman measures against the Palestinians to pave the ground for a settlement. He said that there is no indication yet that the Israelis are willing to grant the Palestinians autonomous rule that would be followed by an independent state. One has to wait and see, said the writer, whether the Israelis and the Palestinians will soon reach agreement on a declaration of common principles for settling the issue, and if that is forthcoming, added the writer, one could say that a little progress has been achieved.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

King's visit to U.S. bound to boost peace talks

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

JORDANIAN ARABIC dailies in the past week focused attention on His Majesty King Hussein's current visit to the United States, the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in Washington and domestic issues.

In an article entitled "The 10th round of peace talks and a step backwards," Ibrahim Al Absi, who writes for Al Ra'i Arabic daily, cast a very gloomy look at the current talks held in Washington between the Arab and Israeli delegations.

The United States, which had pledged to play the role of full partner in the peace process, has once again proved to be totally biased towards Israel, advocating the Israeli delegation's views and ideas supporting the Israeli government in its repression of the Palestinians, said the writer.

It is clear that the United States is playing the role of full supporter of Israel, exercising pressures on the Palestinians and the Arab delegations, said the writer. He said that there can be no chance for the current talks to make a headway, in light of the U.S. administration's attitude.

In the view of Hamadeh Faraneh, a columnist in Al Dustour, the current talks in Washington do not aim at implementing the U.N. Security Council resolutions, but rather at drawing up a new map for the Arab region in favour of Israel's expansionist policies and U.S. interests.

If the current talks do not achieve any progress towards a settlement, one can only feel delighted because it reflects the strong unity of the Arab parties vis-a-vis the U.S.-Israeli alliance, said the writer. It has been clear that the Americans are continually pressuring the Arabs to give Israel more concessions, while no pressure is being applied on Israel to end its intransigence, added the writer.

What the Arab masses hope, said the writer, is continued cohesion among the Arab parties in order to abort the Israeli-American plots.

Salameh Ekour voiced criticism of the current U.S.-Israeli military cooperation, noting that news about such cooperation has been announced during the Arab-Israeli talks in Washington. If Israel is truly inclined towards peace with the Arabs, why then is news leaked about agreements between Washington and the Jewish state on developing bal-

istic missiles and advanced war planes? asked the writer in Sawt Al Shaab.

Of course the Arabs are justified to pursue the course of peace, said the writer, but what are they doing vis-a-vis such cooperation among their enemies in the military field? he went on. The Arabs should, like Israel, contemplate the military option and think seriously of arming themselves in self-defence, he demanded.

Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that there can be no progress in the peace talks unless Israel gives up its intransigent position with regard to the status of Jerusalem. The Arabs are now testing the United States' credibility and waiting to see if the U.S. administration is serious about its claim that it will be playing the role of full partner in the peace process, said the writer.

He said that before the start of the 10th round, and during the past week, the feeling of disappointment has been deepening among the Arabs who are truly inclined towards peace and this is mainly because Washington has not yet lived up to expectations, said the writer. He said that unless the U.S. administration acted in the direction of settling the issue over Jerusalem, the current round would not achieve any result.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that King Hussein's visit to the United States and his talks with the Clinton administration officials are bound to improve the atmosphere of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and give impetus to the process aimed at achieving peace.

The King has repeatedly warned against losing the present opportunity of reaching a durable settlement, noting that the Middle East could be facing a new cycle of hostilities and unrest, said the daily.

The paper echoed the King's call for full implementation of U.N. resolutions and respect of the international legitimacy if a durable peace is to be attained.

Sultan Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that the King has delivered the Arab Nation's message to the United States that it seeks peace and justice. Besides seeking improved U.S.-Jordanian relations, the King has made it clear that Jordan was trying to present itself as a model of democracy before the world in general and the Arab region in particular, said the writer.

Hattab noted that the King

has made it clear that through pursuing the struggle towards democracy and pluralism, Jordan was trying to prevent violence and explosive situations similar to those that have been taking place in Egypt, Somalia, Algeria, Yugoslavia and other parts of the world.

Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour, accused the Israeli intelligence, the Mossad, of being behind the current state of explosions in Egypt, Israel, and not the Islamists, has a real interest in undermining the Egyptian economy by scaring off tourists and shaking the unity of the Egyptian society, said the writer. One has to realise that the Arabs' struggle with Israel is one of survival and it should be realised that Israel would stop at nothing in order to weaken the Arabs and dominate their region.

Mousa Kilani, a columnist in Al Dustour, strongly attacked the United States, for linking its aid to the Arab and Islamic governments, to these countries' readiness to stifle the Islamic movement. Citing a report in the Washington Post, the writer said that the U.S. administration has recently made it clear to Turkey that American aid to Ankara would only be forthcoming when and if the Turkish government took serious steps to fight the Islamists.

Another advocate of the Muslim communities was Abdul Rahim Omar who said that while the United Nations continues its efforts to fight the civil strife there, it is doing nothing to save the Muslims from the Serbian aggression.

The columnist, who writes in Al Ra'i, said that the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina are being denied the right to arm themselves in the face of the onslaught while the Serbs are being encouraged to annihilate the civilian population, with the United Nations standing idle by, offering no help to save the innocent civilians.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that Jordan has played a humanitarian role in hosting the Bosnian families and offering help to the displaced civilians. Despite its meagre resources and difficult economic circumstances, the Kingdom is extending a helping hand to those facing aggression, as it did to the hundreds of thousands of evacuees and expatriates in the wake of the Gulf war, said the writer.

He said that the world com-

munity should take lessons from the Jordanian charitable act and the Kingdom's manifestation of compassion towards any human beings facing the threat of death.

Nazih, a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, criticised Radio Jordan's foreign service for broadcasting a variety of songs and news about the outside world without tackling domestic issues.

The writer said that a news bulletin or a programme on the foreign service seldom tackle an issue of concern to the residents of Jordan, the radio rather covers those topics that are of interest to the higher social classes, like receptions held at hotels and bazaars that are only attended by the wealthy. Nothing about the economy, culture and social life in Jordan, he said, is being discussed or reported by Radio Jordan's foreign service.

Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, criticised the local political parties for failing to discuss the social and economic life in the various governorates, particularly in the rural regions of Jordan.

One can easily detect the difficult living conditions of people outside Amman from the complaints aired over the call-in-radio programme, said the writer.

He said that the people in the rural regions complain of lack of health and social services and appeal for help from the central authorities in Amman, while political parties newspaper suffice themselves with discussions of the situation in the former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan.

Fahd Al Faneh, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the executive authority alone has the power and the prerogative to determine whether an amendment to the present Election Law should be introduced or not in the absence of the legislative authority.

The writer said that those who oppose the government's amendment of the law have only the courts to complain to, but they cannot deprive the government of its right to issue temporary laws considered necessary to ensure social justice.

The writer said that no one had opposed the government's decision to abolish the martial law without referring to Parliament, and it would be foolish now to stop the government from taking other important decisions to safeguard the national interest.

Rights conference — major breakthrough for women

By Wendy Lubetkin

VIENNA — Hundreds of women's rights groups from around the world are proving to be the most "dynamic force" at the U.N. World Conference on Human Rights, says Felice Gaer, a public member of the U.S. delegation to the conference.

"They are the most well-organized, and they are the most focused on their objective — which is putting women's rights on the world human rights agenda," Ms. Gaer, executive director of Jacob Blaustein Institute for Human Rights, explained in an interview midway through the two-week meeting.

Women's efforts, Ms. Gaer said, now dovetail with those of the U.S. government, which has "turned a corner" and made the integration of women's rights throughout the U.N. system an important goal at the conference.

Rallying under the slogan "Women's Rights are Human Rights," women's rights groups have cast a spotlight on issues such as violence against women, sexual exploitation, genital mutilation, female infanticide.

during the conference revealed that about a third of the activities focused on women's issues. Groups ranging from Women Living under Muslim Law to the Asian Women's Human Rights Council are participating in workshops and debate, on a wide range of topics — but a common theme uniting all the women's groups here is how to prevent violence against women.

"If you are looking for an issue that is truly universal, it is violence against women," said U.S. delegation member Arvonne Fraser. A U.S. State Department fact sheet circulated at the conference points out that violence against women is rarely seen as a human rights violation — "even though abuse of such magnitude against any other group would be recognised as a major humanitarian emergency."

To focus international attention on the issue, a coalition of women's groups organised an 11-hour "Global Tribunal on Violations of Women's Human Rights" on the second day of the conference. Over a thousand people listened to the testimony of 33 women, including a Pakistani woman who related how she had been set afire by her own family, a Korean "comfort woman," and an Afro-American woman who told of battery in the home by her former husband, a police officer.

Women from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Somalia and other war-torn regions said that war crimes were being perpetrated against women in the name of "moral boosting" and "ethnic cleansing." Evidence submitted to the tribunal also included an Iranian document specifying the size of the stones which could be thrown at women accused of adultery.

Earlier this year, the 1993 session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission decided in principle to appoint a U.N. special rapporteur to investigate violence against women, a U.S.-supported measure which is endorsed and

"The final declaration of the world conference will be a real marker for women's rights. It establishes women as part of the agenda, and it is really a breakthrough."

political and economic discrimination, and abuses within the family, she noted.

In many respects, she said, the Vienna Conference has already been a victory for women: "The final declaration of the world conference will be a real marker for women's rights. It establishes women as part of the agenda, and it is really a breakthrough."

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in an earlier address to the conference, called the need to guarantee women's human rights a "moral imperative."

Those who drafted the U.N. charter were "determined to write a document that would protect and empower women as well as men," Mr. Christopher told conference participants representing over 180 U.N. member states. "But that remains an unfulfilled vision in too many parts of the world, where women are subjected to discrimination and bias solely based on their gender."

Some nations at the conference have tried to undermine the principle of the universality of human rights, saying that specific historic and cultural situations must be taken into consideration, but placing cultural limitations or economic preconditions on human rights is seen by women's groups as particularly damaging to women.

"When men talk about cultural relativism they want to deny women's rights by saying that it is a question of cultural identity," said Hamida Mirabet Labidi, a lawyer from Tunisia. Although Tunisia has progressive laws pro-

"When men talk about cultural relativism they want to deny women's rights by saying that it is a question of cultural identity."

welcomed in the draft final declaration of the World Conference, the U.S. wants the special rapporteur's mandate to include the power to investigate battering in the family, rape, female infanticide, "honour killings," "dowry murder," and other violence related to traditional and customary practices.

Women's groups also welcomed Mr. Christopher's announcement that the Clinton administration will push for ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) after the Senate ratifies another U.N. convention on racism.

CEDAW is the primary international legal instrument to protect women's human rights. Constitutional, legislative and other measures described in the convention seek to promote equality through affirmative action, maternity protection, equal employment opportunities, and equality before the law.

To date 120 countries have ratified the convention and are thus legally bound to put its provisions into practice. But women's rights advocates point out that many states have attached reservations to the treaty which are so fundamental that they basically negate its purpose. In addition, Ms. Gaer noted, many countries which have ratified the convention do not have very developed legal systems, and women have no recourse for enforcement.

"The difference with America is that when we sign a treaty, that means we are actually going to implement it," Ms. Gaer said. "More to the point, it gives us the standing with other countries to talk with them about how they treat women in their societies." — United States Information Agency.

"A document that would protect and empower women as well as men remains an unfulfilled vision in too many parts of the world, where women are subjected to discrimination and bias solely based on their gender."

tecting women, Ms. Labidi said, Islamic extremists in her country are pressing to have the rights of women revoked.

Like many women at the conference, Ms. Labidi said that she had come to Vienna to meet groups from other countries and to learn from their experiences. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from all regions of the world are meeting on the ground floor of the same building where the U.N. conference is taking place.

A glance at a six-page list of NGO activities for a single day

Experts look for terrorism to get worse, not better

By Ruth Sinai
The Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. — Toxins funneled through air conditioning vents? Nuclear weapons detonated on a city street? A missile fired at an airport?

It used to be the material of science fiction and thriller novels. No more, say U.S. and international terrorism experts who gathered here last week at the Pentagon's request to map the future of terrorism.

Their conclusion: Prospects for terrorist attacks are ever-expanding and increasingly chilling.

The U.S. government, worried that it lacks a long-term strategy to deal with catastrophic attacks at home and abroad, has undertaken an ambitious project to divine the future of terrorism until 2010: who will carry out attacks, how, when and where, and against whom?

"We need to know the array of things that can slam dunk us, even those eventualities that appear a remote threat but could have devastating impact," said air force Col. E. Douglas Menachik, terrorism policy director at the Department of Defense.

The grim future predicted by terrorism experts stands in contrast to current statistics: In 1992, according to an annual State Department report, the number of international terrorist attacks dropped to 361 — the lowest level in 17 years.

But experts argue that the number of domestic terrorist attacks around the world is constantly growing and can affect U.S. interests even if Americans aren't targeted. And, they say, statistics are misleading because a devastating attack like the 1988 killing of 270 people on Pan Am Flight 103 is counted the same as a grenade attack on an American Express office in Europe that

shatters two windows.

Primarily, these experts contend that the downward trend is being reversed by two major developments: the disintegration of the Soviet Bloc that is spawning national and ethnic strife in Europe, and the rise of Muslim militancy in the Middle East.

The latter has spread its tentacles as far as New York. The February bombing of the World Trade Centre — allegedly the work of fervent Muslims — brought home to Americans that they were no longer immune from the terrorism that has plagued Europe and the Middle East.

Religious terrorism can also affect U.S. interests even if not conducted against Americans, said Peter Probst, a Pentagon specialist on terrorism. For example, if the growing Islamic terror in Egypt succeeds in unseating pro-western President Hosni Mubarak, he said, the United States could find itself confronted with an unfriendly government in

a country pivotal to its interests in the oil-rich Middle East.

Its self-declared status as the world's sole remaining superpower could make the United States even more vulnerable.

"The United States is a target of hatred and enmity for many people around the world," said Alberto Coll, deputy assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low-intensity conflict.

In fact, despite the drop in international attacks, Americans continue to account for about 40 percent of the targets, according to the State Department report.

Coll and others predicted that although Iran and Libya, two of the world's primary sponsors of terrorism, have been subdued in recent months — Libya by international sanctions over its refusal to hand over the alleged bombers of Pan Am 103, and Iran by a desire for improved economic relations with the West — neither has disavowed terrorism.

The unrest in Europe, a result

of powerful nationalist forces and massive immigration flows, is of great concern to terrorism specialists who note that it was a single assassin's bullet in a destabilised Europe that launched World War I in 1914.

Growing neo-Nazi terrorism in Germany could end up killing more people than the Marxist groups active in the 1970s, said Paul Wilkinson, a British counter-terrorism specialist. Already this year, he said, 22 people have been killed.

German fascist groups have in the past had loose contacts with white supremacists in the United States, said Bruce Hoffman, a terrorism expert at the Rand Corporation. Mr. Hoffman and others said American groups could become emboldened by the growing strength of their European soulmates.

Experts are divided on whether terrorists will resort to chemical, biological or even nuclear warfare.



King concludes official visit to Washington

(Continued from page 1)

States, as the co-sponsor of the talks along with Russia, "is to try to help the negotiations be successful," Mr. Christopher said. "And if there's something that would break down the impediments that now exist, of course, we'd want to cooperate with that."

Following is the transcript of remarks by Mr. Christopher and King Hussein prior to their meeting at the State Department.

Mr. Christopher: I'm most pleased to welcome to the State Department His Majesty King Hussein. He is a long-time friend of the United States. We are very fortunate to be having an extended visit here, ranging over several days, and I can tell you that it's been a very, very successful visit. We are most admiring of the steps that the King has taken toward democratisation in his country. They have been very progressive and very desirable steps.

We are also indebted to him for his consistent support of the peace process in the Middle East. I think he has been a leader in this area for some time and I am very grateful to have him assisting us in trying to move that process forward. Of course, we are also grateful to him for the enforcement of the United Nations sanctions in the Middle East against Iraq. This is a visit in which we have emphasised a number of very close and common purposes that we have with his country and also emphasised our long-time friendship with him. So, your Majesty, it's a great honour and pleasure to have you here at the State Department.

King Hussein: Thank you very much indeed. Thank you very much, sir. Today is my last day in Washington. I would like to say how happy I have been with the visit — with the privilege of meeting the President, with the impression he left upon me of his knowledge, his determination to contribute his utmost for the establishment of a just, comprehensive and durable peace in our

region. He struck me, as he must have struck the American people, as a man of principle, a genuine person, and I am indeed proud of the friendship that has come to be between us. I believe that this continues a friendship which has been there between our two countries over many, many years — certainly the forty years of time when I had the honour to serve and lead the people of Jordan.

Our ideas are the same — objectives, principles that we uphold — and we hope that we can contribute towards the breaking of the new dawn of peace and better future for the generations to come in our region and to cooperate in many fields and areas, very much indeed, sir, and I thank all our friends who have made it such a wonderful and memorable visit. This is indeed a chance for us, as old friends, again maybe to have some talks before we prepare to leave Washington. I am always proud of our friendship.

Mr. Christopher: Thank you, King Hussein. Q: Mr. Secretary, is the United States committed to the letters of assurances for the Palestinians concerning Jerusalem?

Mr. Christopher: We remain committed to the letters of assurances that were given in connection with the Madrid Conference and the restarting of the peace negotiations. We have indicated that to the parties as the process was restarted here in the United States. We are working closely with the parties in that difficult subject. We have been in close touch with all the bilateral negotiations. They are at a substantive level, and the parties are grappling with some extremely difficult issues. The King has lent his support to us in trying to resolve those issues; and, as I say, I would confirm that the United States continues to support the letters of assurance that were given at the time of the Madrid Conference.

Q: Mr. Secretary, on that topic,

this morning both the Syrians and the Israelis alluded to the fact that there may need to be some change to the Madrid format. Is that something that the administration is working on or would be open to?

Mr. Christopher: We think that the emphasis ought to be on dealing with the substantive problems. I'm not sure that there is any need for process or procedural changes; and, as I have said before, it seems to me that it is desirable not to get bogged down or diverted by procedural changes. At the same time, we don't close our mind to anything the parties would suggest; but we're the sponsors along with Russia, and I think that our main goal is to try to help the negotiations be successful. If there is something that would break down the impediments that now exist of course we would want to cooperate with that. Thank you.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, Finance Minister Sami Gammo, Planning Minister Zeid Fariz, Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Fayez Tarawneh and Chief of Royal Protocol Mohammad Al Adwan.

Senator Mitchell and Sen. Dole held talks with the King in a joint meeting and later expressed hope that Congress could have a better working relationship with Jordan.

Mr. Mitchell said after the meeting: "Senator Dole and I had a good and very friendly and informative meeting with the King and we look forward to the meeting with the larger group of senators as is our practice. "We told him that he brought us together today we have been debating the budget, and we have been on opposite sides on the budget for a couple of days and it took the King to bring us together and we appreciate that. "But we hope that those talks,

the King's meeting with the president and other steps will build upon the relations between the two countries, improve them, and we value of the King's advice and counsel particularly in respect to the peace process that's underway now in the Middle East."

Asked whether a better understanding by the Congress on issues relating to Jordan could be expected, Mr. Mitchell said: "We hope that to be the case."

Mr. Dole said: "(There has) never been a problem with the two of us, and we also are deeply grateful for the help with the Bosnian refugees and also your efforts in Croatia. We understand you have about a thousand troops."

The King said Jordan was planning to double its troops in Croatia.

The meeting was attended by Queen Noor and members of the delegation accompanying the King.

Later Thursday, the King met with several members of the Palestinian delegates to the peace talks.

Delegation leader Faisal Husseini conveyed Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's greetings to the King and voiced appreciation for the King's efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

King Hussein was briefed by the Palestinian peace delegates on developments on the Israeli-Palestinian negotiating track.

The King expressed appreciation for efforts exerted by Palestinian negotiators and "the courage they showed in participating in the talks with the aim of defending the national and political rights of the Palestinian people," Petra said.

The King underlined "the Palestinian team, which included Saeb Erekat, Nabil Shaath and Akram Haniyeh, the importance of Arab coordination, mainly Jordanian-Palestinian coordination."

8 suspects said linked to blast

(Continued from page 1)

James Fox, head of the New York FBI office, said: "The joint terrorist task force has been beefed up. The only point in my recollection that it's been larger than it is now is at the time of the Gulf war."

Investigators said they had known of the bombing plans since early May through a secret informant. They acted when it became clear the group was coming close to carrying out its plot.

They said they were looking closely at links between those arrested on Thursday and the six charged with the Feb. 26 World Trade Centre bombing.

Coordinated attacks were planned for July 4, the U.S. independence day holiday, the New York post cited an unidentified high-ranking law enforcement source as saying.

The attacks would have endangered tens of thousands.

Thousands of families drive into New York through the tunnels on Independence Day to watch fireworks over the Hudson and East rivers. However, that day is a holiday for thousands of employees in the FBI building allegedly targeted.

The Jacob K. Javits Federal Building, where the FBI has offices, is occupied by 10,000 people a day. The United Nations has about 15,500 workers and tourists.

The group also planned to assassinate New York State Representative Dov Hikind, an outspoken Orthodox Jew, the FBI said.

There was no evidence of any



PRIESTLY ADOBE: Hardline Egyptian preacher Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman sits in his apartment in Jersey City, New Jersey, after holding a press conference to discuss the arrest of eight Muslims for allegedly plotting several bomb attacks (see page 1). Police searched Sheikh Abdul Rahman's apartment and removed books and papers for inspection Thursday (AFP photo)

foreign connection in the conspiracy, officials said. But a U.N. source said the FBI had requested information of diplomats from Sudan and Libya.

The suspects — five Sudanese nationals with permanent U.S. resident status, one believed to be a Muslim from Puerto Rico, one an American Muslim and the other's background unclear — also discussed bombing unspecified "other military and governmental targets," the complaint said.

The motive was not known. In the safehouse were five drums of a homemade explosive made from diesel fuel and ferti-

liser — the combination used in the trade centre bomb, authorities said. The unidentified informant had rented the apartment. "As we entered the bomb factory, the five subjects were actually mixing the withches' brew," Mr. Fox said. Agents who took part said "the smell of fumes from the mixture was almost overpowering."

The fuel arrived Wednesday just hours before the arrests, the complaint said. The safehouse, a garage in the rear of a Queens storefront, was under physical and electronic surveillance, the FBI said.

The alleged ringleader, Siddiq Ibrahim Siddiq Ali, 32, was a

frequent presence at the trial of Al Sayid Nosair, who was convicted of weapons charges in Rabbi Meir Kahane's death, said the attorney for both, William Kunstler.

President Bill Clinton said Friday during brief comments to reporters at the White House that he was reassured by the law enforcement's ability to deal aggressively with terrorist threats.

And former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director Robert Gates said on NBC television Friday that "people should take heart from the bureau's (FBI) extraordinary performance in this case."

Amman stock market boom seen picking up

(Continued from page 1)

In the final two days of trading at the AFM last week, prices started crawling up again, and brokers expect this trend to continue when the market reopens Saturday.

The number of contracts and shares involved in last week's trading was markedly lower than the previous week, and this bears out the theory that buyers and sellers were deliberately staying away from the market, the broker pointed out.

"Things have more or less cleared now, and it is evident that it is private savings that is playing the key role in the market rather than loans extended by the commercial banks," said an official at the Central Bank.

"We are continuing to keep a close watch on the situation," said the official, who preferred anonymity. "Obviously we cannot tell the people not to trade in the market, but our message to them was that 'be prudent and careful'."

This message appears to have received "loud and clear," said AFM brokers. "It prompted the investors to stop for a moment and take a closer

look at all elements in the market," said a veteran dealer who has seen the ups and downs in the market for many years.

"Obviously what they saw was not exactly discouraging. The money invested in shares remained very much in the market, and there was no panic selling," said the broker.

Brokers attributed the boom at the AFM in the last two years after several years of stagnation to a combination of factors. These include:

— Prospects for Arab-Israeli peace.

Scepticism over the Middle East process is nowhere near the optimism that the process would be successful and would have a spiralling effect on the Jordanian economy," said the chief executive at the regional office of an international bank.

"This has attracted many investors to transfer their foreign holdings to Jordan and a good part of the money that we see at the AFM today represents their funds," said the banker.

High liquidity as a result of funds brought in by expatriates who returned from Kuwait and other Gulf states in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

"More than 90 per cent of my clients now are new faces to me," said a broker, who has been in the market since 1989.

"Almost all of them are new investors from Kuwait, with an average investment of JD 100,000 each of their own funds at the AFM."

— Low interest rates offered by commercial banks are prompting depositors to turn to stocks.

Annual dividends on shares had never been a major encouraging factor for investors, said the banker, noting that even if some of the leading companies were to offer 100 per cent dividend on its shares it would still be negligible when compared with the actual investment on the shares.

— Slowdown in other sectors of the economy and an abundance of firms involved in the traditionally higher-profit-making areas.

— Commercial bank credits derived from excess liquidity resulting from deposits. "Even the 50 per cent ceiling imposed by the Central Bank gives enough leeway for the banks to extend credit to individuals for trading in shares," noted a senior official.

— Favourable reports in the international press.

Some of the "new faces" at the AFM were encouraged to enter the market after a series of reports in internationally reputed newspapers and magazines that the bourse in Amman was one of the fastest-growing in the Third World.

In addition, the regulatory practices and safety mechanism applied by the authorities seem to have assured them that their own judgment and speculative skills are the ultimate factors in deciding their losses or profits," said the regional banker.

— Bids by European investors to have access to the Amman market.

Non-Jordanians are prohibited by law from dealing in Jordanian stock. But the market is awash with rumours that several groups of European investors who visited Jordan in the past two years are seeking government permission to enter the market, and this has encouraged a few Jordanian investors to stake positions ahead of the possibility that foreign funds could come into play at AFM.

Gulf states spend on defence at expense of development

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Oil-rich Gulf Arab states worried about Iraq and Iran are spending billions of dollars on defence at the expense of economic development, diplomats and experts said.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states spent about 20 per cent of their annual budgets on defence in the past decade, compared to 40 per cent before the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war and the 1991 Gulf war, official Arab figures show.

And despite the return of peace, GCC states believe they are still threatened given their vast oil wealth and weak military power and they have embarked on major plans to bolster their armies.

"With the end of the war, Gulf states could focus more on economic development but security concerns will remain their obsession," a Gulf-based Western diplomat said. "Such concerns will naturally prompt them to increase defence spending and this could be at the expense of development."

Official Arab figures show GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — spent a record \$45 billion on defence and security in 1992, mostly in contribution to an allied campaign to evict Iraqi invasion forces from Kuwait.

With oil prices retreating sharply after a surge during the Gulf war, such spending created their worst-ever budget deficit, which stood at \$27.6 billion compared with around \$16 billion in 1991.

Development spending accounted for around 16 per cent of the total expenditure in 1992, while it stood at 21.7 per cent in 1991, 15.3 per cent in 1990 and as high as 46 per cent in 1980. Aid was also affected by the war and lower oil prices, with GCC states extending less than \$2 billion in 1991 compared with an annual average of \$5 billion before the war.

Proposed energy taxes by the United States and the European Community could also be at the expense of development and aid by GCC states on the grounds they will harm demand for oil and depress their earnings.

Despite efforts to boost the private sector's role, government spending in the Gulf has remained the main factor in economic activity. This explains the sharp slowdown in regional economies, which grew by around five per cent in the past decade compared with 15 per cent during the oil boom before 1981, when spending exceeded \$130 billion a year.

Izetbegovic refuses to attend talks

(Continued from page 1)

as possible and asked Mr. Izetbegovic to call the presidency members back to Sarajevo.

Bosnian Presidency members told a news conference in Geneva on Thursday they were prepared to consider the Serb-Croat plans. But one source at the Zagreb meeting, who declined to be identified, said the constitution proposed by the Serbs and Croats was unacceptable.

Miro Lasic, the Croat member on Bosnia's presidency, said the Muslims were clearly opposed to the confederative system. But he

said, "we have to take what is possible to implement."

Rump Yugoslavia's parliament Friday elected 40-year-old engineer Zoran Lilic as the country's new president in a move that consolidates President Milosevic's power base.

Mr. Lilic, who is on the steering committee of Mr. Milosevic's ruling Socialist Party (SPS), has not sought to hide his admiration and respect for the Serbian president, describing him in an interview with the magazine Duga as "a wise and rational politician who has a great deal of energy."

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Senate narrowly approves Clinton's economic plan

Beirut approves \$2 billion plan

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.2835/40	Canadian dollar
	1.7090/100	Deutsche marks
	1.9160/70	Dutch guilders
	1.5182/92	Swiss francs
	35.08/09	Belgian francs
	5.7525/75	French francs
	1541/1543	Italian lire
	106.90/107.00	Japanese yen
	7.8075/275	Swedish crowns
	7.2080/180	Norwegian crowns
	6.5500/600	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.4705/15	
One ounce of gold	\$374.80/375.30	

Mr. Hariri, a banking and building tycoon in his first political post, wants Beirut to regain its role as an international financial centre, which was shattered when war broke out in 1975.

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Trade between Israel and Japan, which reached \$1.7 billion in 1992, will be considerably boosted this year, Trade and Industry Minister Micha Harish said upon his return from Tokyo.

"Economic relations are in full bloom," Mr. Harish told the Israeli news agency ITIM.

During the first three months of 1993 exports to Japan jumped nine per cent over the same period of 1992 to reach \$1.8 billion.

Most of the increase was accounted for by chemicals although cut diamonds are by far the most valuable export to Japan. Imports were up six per cent to \$276 million, mainly cars, over the same period.

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Azerbaijani president ousted; Aliyev takes over in Baku

MOSCOW (AFP) — Azerbaijani parliament ousted embattled President Abulfaz Elchibey and transferred power to former Communist boss Gaidar Aliyev in a bid to end the three-week-old political crisis in the former Soviet republic.

Mr. Elchibey immediately denounced the move as "unconstitutional" and a "coup d'état", according to his spokesman quoted by the Turkish Anadolu News Agency Friday in a report from Nakhichevan, the president's home republic where he fled last week.

The president said Mr. Elchibey "had not resigned" and "is still president of Azerbaijan". The wild cards Friday were rebel military commander Surat Guseinov — who led a June 4 rebellion in Gyandzha, the country's second city, that triggered Mr. Elchibey's flight from the capital — and members of Mr. Elchibey's Popular Front party,

who brought him to power on a tide of nationalist support last June.

Neither reacted immediately to the change. Col. Guseinov, 34, asserted Wednesday he was assuming power.

Several hundred Guseinov rebels were still camped outside the capital Friday, where they had advanced last week to press for Mr. Elchibey's ouster. They were positioned on both roads linking Baku to the west.

But the capital was calm, with government and rebel troops jointly manning checkpoints on roads into Baku.

The Popular Front called for a demonstration in downtown Baku later Friday. But the broad support it managed to drum up last year has dwindled sharply as the country's economy has slumped, drained by the war with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Their marches in the last week

have rallied fewer than 100 people.

The immediate winner Friday appeared to be Mr. Aliyev, who as speaker of parliament becomes interim head of state under the republic's constitution.

The 70-year-old former first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party was to give a press conference in Baku. Unconfirmed reports said he might set up a new government with Col. Guseinov as defence minister.

Interfax News Agency said the Baku parliament voted late Thursday 33 to three to oust Mr. Elchibey, who had come to power last June in a popular vote after a power struggle that forced out former pro-Communist President Ayaz Mutalibov. Thirty-seven of the 51 legislators were present for the vote, in which one abstained.

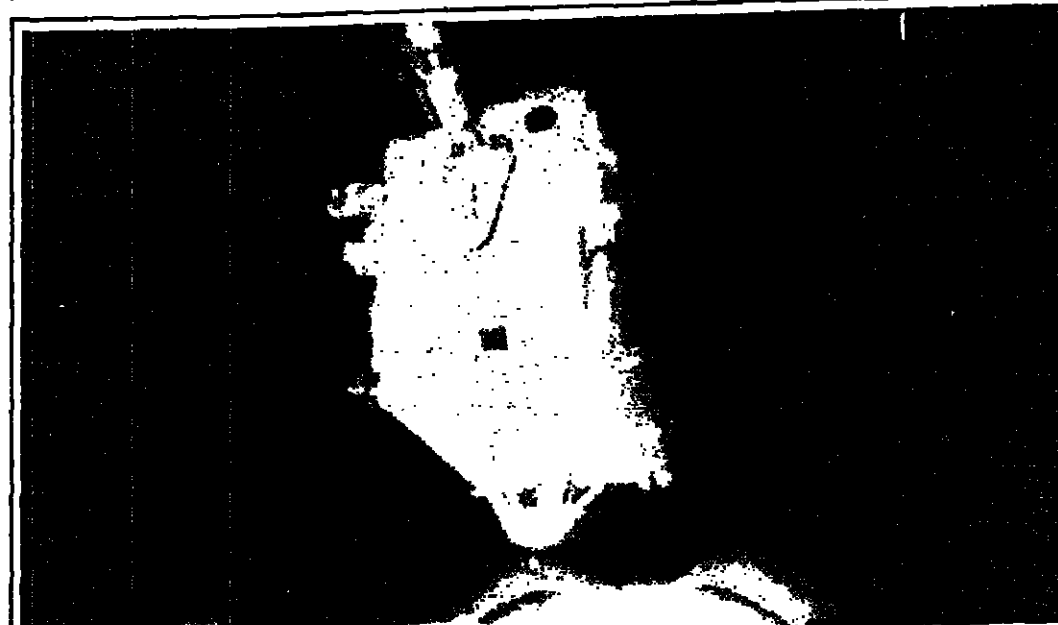
An Elchibey supporter, deputy Ibrahim Ibrahimov, blasted the

vote as "completing the coup started in Gyandzha in early June", when government forces were sent in to quell the Guseinov rebellion. A bloodbath resulted in which 69 people were killed, most of them Col. Guseinov's troops.

Col. Guseinov, a popular former army colonel sacked by Mr. Elchibey in February over Baku's military setbacks in Nagorno-Karabakh, has charged Mr. Elchibey with corruption and incompetence.

On Thursday in Gyandzha, two rebel leaders and a civil servant were killed by an unidentified group of assailants who burst into the city hall there.

Col. Guseinov, quoted by Interfax Friday, blamed the killings on the Popular Front, though Mr. Elchibey's press office in Baku denounced them — an attempt to stir up trouble, an appeal for calm.



SPACECRAFT RETRIEVED: The space shuttle Endeavour's (bottom) robot arm holds the EURECA spacecraft over the cargo bay Thursday after the shuttle retrieved it. The EURECA will be secured in the cargo bay and returned to Earth after 10 months of experiments in space for the European Space Agency (AFP photo)

Fire in French clinic kills 17

BRUZ, France (AP) — A fire roared through a private psychiatric clinic early Friday morning, killing 17 people and injuring at least 35, rescue authorities reported. Two people were missing.

The blaze broke out just before 1 a.m. in the rafters of a wing of the Saint-François d'Assises Clinic, a three-story stone chateau on the outskirts of this village near the western city of Rennes.

The blaze quickly turned into an inferno that tore through the clinic's three floors, trapping many of the patients in their beds, firefighters said.

Sixty-four patients and seven staff members were in the building when the blaze broke out.

They had earlier held a party to

celebrate the summer solstice. "It was horrible," said a firefighter on condition of anonymity. "There were screams everywhere. We couldn't see anything because of the smoke. Fortunately, it didn't take us long to get everyone out of there."

Among the injured was a panic-stricken woman who jumped from a window in her nightgown. Most of the rest suffered from shock or smoke inhalation. Five were hospitalised in Rennes in serious condition.

Sixteen of the dead were patients, mostly killed in the building's left wing where the fire broke out. The last dead person was a nurse who died trying to lead the patients to safety.

Nadir links cost U.K. minister his job

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major's accident-prone government suffered another embarrassing upset when Northern Ireland Minister Michael Mates was forced to resign over his links with fugitive tycoon Asil Nadir.

Mr. Mates became the government's third ministerial casualty in just 14 crisis-filled months Thursday after being engulfed by controversy over Mr. Nadir's donations to the ruling party and alleged contacts with government power-brokers.

The downfall of the brusque ex-army officer under the weight of almost daily media stories about his links with Mr. Nadir, especially his gift of an inscribed watch, revived questions about Mr. Major's faltering leadership.

Some Conservatives complained Mr. Major had left Mr. Mates "swinging in the wind" as increasingly muted expressions of support sowed confusion about the minister's future. Mr. Major originally said Mr. Mates's relationship with Mr. Nadir was "not a hanging offence".

"The privatisation has added to an impression of a lack of grip at the top," said Friday's Daily Telegraph. "For weeks Mr. Mates was left to drift in space,

amid rumour and counter-rumour of the prime minister's support or lack of it."

As Mr. Mates made a reluctant exit, Mr. Nadir heaped further embarrassment on the government with a television appearance from his luxury north Cyprus home in which he spoke of power lunches with senior Conservatives who "courted" him for cash.

Mr. Nadir told Independent Television News how party support gained him entry into the presence of the then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and former party Chairman Kenneth Baker.

In his resignation letter, Mr. Mates denied he had acted improperly in his dealings with the tycoon, who fled to his native northern Cyprus last month to escape theft and false accounting charges over his collapsed Polly Peck conglomerate.

But Mr. Mates said he felt duty-bound to resign to quell a stream of leaks and "so-called quotes from unknown sources."

In a cheeky sign-off to his resignation letter Mr. Mates said he should have presented Mr. Major, instead of Mr. Nadir, with the infamous watch inscribed

"don't let the buggers get you down."

As well as the cheap watch saga, Mr. Mates stood accused of accepting the loan of a car from a friend of the tycoon and raising Mr. Nadir's case with the government's chief law officer, Attorney General Sir Nicholas Lyell.

Mr. Major, accused by some Conservatives of showing undue loyalty to Mr. Mates and by others of being dictated to the media, was forced to announce the resignation in parliament, an unusually public way of dispatching a minister, as he came under attack from the Labour opposition.

Labour has seized on the reports of cosy contacts between Cyprus-born Mr. Nadir and the establishment and spoken of a "whiff of corruption and sleaze hanging over the Conservatives and their secret finances after 14 years in government."

Mr. Mates is the third minister forced to leave Mr. Major's government since the Conservatives won their fourth successive election in April 1992. First Mr. Major's friend David Mellor resigned over an affair with an actress then Chancellor Norman Lamont was ejected in a reshuffle.

Refugees go home as Cambodian tensions ease

PHNOM PENH (R) — A thousand refugees who fled an abortive post-election secessionist movement in eastern Cambodia headed for home Friday as political tensions eased in the war-torn South East Asian country.

Twenty canvas-covered Cambodian Red Cross trucks ferried the refugees from Phnom Penh's Olympic Stadium, escorted by police of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the 22,000-strong peacekeeping force that ran last month's national election.

Thousands of supporters and officials of the Royalist FUNCINPEC Party, the election winner, fled to the capital when hardliners in the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) called the polls a fraud and declared several provinces near Vietnam an autonomous zone.

Many refugees have since returned voluntarily and 3,000 more will be returned in the next three days under U.N. escort. The secessionist movement collapsed under pressure from head of state Prince Norodom Sihamoni and CPP leader Hun Sen, the Phnom Penh government's prime minister.

Mr. Hun Sen has ordered all government officials in the affected zones to make sure the refugees return to their homes and jobs and are able to resume their political and social lives.

Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Sihamoni's son Prince Norodom Ranariddh agreed Thursday on the composition of an interim coalition government and Khmer Rouge President Kieu Samphan was invited to return to Phnom Penh in moves seen as easing fears of war in the faction-ridden country.

The value of the Cambodian currency, the riel, rose from 3,200 to a U.S. dollar Friday morning to 2,800 by early afternoon in market stalls, a sure sign of lessening tensions.

It had plunged to nearly 5,000 against the dollar just before the May 23-28 elections as fears spread that Khmer Rouge threats to disrupt the polling could reignite a civil war.

Members of the future interim government were expected to meet Friday to draft a joint political platform, which will be presented to the National Assembly when it is asked to approve the coalition next week.

A senior Phnom Penh government general earlier in the week said the Khmer Rouge were welcomed to join the unified armed forces being organised by the three factions that participated in the election.

Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh confirmed that in addition to being co-chairmen of the entire government they would themselves share personal responsibility for the defence and interior ministries.

Political sources said FUNCINPEC would get 10 other ministries, including foreign affairs and finance. The CPP would also get ten.

The smaller Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP) of former Premier Son Sann will run three ministries and the rightwing Molinaka Party, one.

FUNCINPEC, a French acronym for National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia, won 58 votes in the 120-seat assembly to 51 for the CPP. The BLDP won ten and Molinaka, one.

The interim government will run the country during the three months it will take the National Assembly to write a constitution.

Extremists invade S. Africa talks venue

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — In a brutal show of force, heavily armed right wingers intent on a separate white state Friday invaded the venue of South Africa's democracy talks, shattering through the gates with an armoured truck.

They ended their nearly two-hour occupation of the World Trade Centre east of Johannesburg after reaching an agreement with police that there would be no arrests.

The invasion shortly before the start of a negotiating council session, came the day after the Conservative Party (CP), champion of a federated white state, found itself totally isolated at the talks.

The action was spearheaded by the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) led by Eugene Terre'Blanche, who, along with CP leader Ferdie Hartzenberg and Afrikaner Volksfront chief Constand Viljoen, was involved in negotiations with security forces.

The occupiers smashed windows and equipment and destroyed attached cases and documents belonging to delegates.

The police, completely outnumbered and outgunned, said they were reluctant to make any arrests for fear of sparking a gunbattle with more than 2,000 demonstrators, many of them armed and hooded and wearing the black or khaki uniforms of the AWB.

Police closed off access roads to the building, but were seen allowing white right-wingers through on foot.

The demonstrators rushed the building, a policeman said, with a van similar to a Brink's truck.

A man wearing the black uniform of the AWB "Iron Guard" stood on the hood and fired a single shot into the plate glass doors, the officer said.

The glass spiderwebbed and the vehicle drove through.

In the chaos that ensued, 100 to 300 extremists invaded the nego-

tiating chambers on the first floor of the building, spraying slogans that read "kill the Kaffirs" — the derogatory term for blacks — and "our land, our people."

Mr. Terre'Blanche was among the armed occupiers who said prayers and sang "Die Stem" — the call — the South African national anthem.

White supremacists were seen bullying policemen, telling them to take their hats off during prayers and to stand at attention during the anthem.

The two most prominent negotiators at the talks, the African National Congress' Cyril Ramaphosa and the government's Roelf Meyer, were in "a safe place at the centre and inaccessible" throughout the occupation, police said.

Demonstrators took down the South African flags and those of parties involved in the talks and replaced them with Boer republic flags and the Swastika-like banners of the AWB.

7th round of Hong Kong talks set for July

PEKING (AFP) — A seventh round of Sino-British talks on the political future of Hong Kong has been scheduled for July 5-6, the official Xinhua News Agency said here Friday.

Xinhua, quoting Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry sources, said in a brief dispatch that both the Chinese and the British side had agreed on the dates for the new round of talks "on arrangements for the 1994/95 elections in Hong Kong."

The announcement came after the sixth round of talks ended earlier in the day with what a British negotiator described as a "little progress" but a long way to go.

"We have made a little progress and of course I very much hope that we shall continue to make progress," Britain's ambassador to China, Sir Robin

McLaren, told reporters. "There's still quite a way to go."

McLaren declined to specify on which issues progress was made.

The negotiations, which started two months ago, are aimed mainly at trying to find a consensus on arrangements for Hong Kong's last elections before the British colony reverts to China in 1997.

Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten wants to expand direct elections, something Peking has strongly opposed.

Mr. McLaren said he did not know how much longer the talks would last, but added that London's "position remains that there isn't an indefinite amount of time."

A special cabinet-level meeting is to be held next Thursday in London to review the British position and consider any changes to it. The Chinese side is

also expected to review its stance. The British ambassador made clear that it was Mr. Patten who would have the deciding role in the course of the talks.

"The governor has an immensely important role in the way we on the British side are conducting the talks," Mr. McLaren said.

It was Mr. Patten's plan to broaden Hong Kong's voting franchise among professional groups in 1994-95 elections that triggered a bitter six-month row between London and Peking, which accused the governor of violating previous Sino-British agreements.

The cabinet meeting in London will bring together Prime Minister John Major, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, Mr. Patten and Mr. McLaren.

Seoul denounces North on war anniversary

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam told Korean War veterans Friday that the North's goal of forcing communism on the South is as strong as it was 43 years ago when Pyongyang launched the Korean War.

North Korea attacked the South across the 38th Parallel on June 25, 1950.

"Their goals have not changed appreciably even though they signed the agreement on reconciliation, non-aggression with the South," Mr. Kim said, referring to a pact signed by the two sides a year and a half ago.

Mr. Kim was speaking to veterans attending a dinner to mark the 43rd anniversary of the start of the Korean War.

The peninsula was split at the 38th Parallel in 1945 just after

World War II, dividing it between the Russian-occupied North and U.S.-occupied South. Two days after Pyongyang attacked South Korea, Washington ordered U.S. armed intervention.

United Nations forces entered the war in September to help an ailing U.S. and South Korean campaign. U.N. forces had pushed North Korean troops nearly as far as the borders of Manchuria and Siberia. But Chinese Communist forces intervened in October 1950, forcing their enemies to retreat below the 38th Parallel.

The two sides signed a truce at Panmunjom on July 27, 1953. More than two million people died in the three years of hostilities which devastated the entire

Korean peninsula. Ever since, Pyongyang has been building up its military might in a bid to unify the Korean peninsula under communism. Mr. Kim said in a dinner speech to Korean War veterans.

North Korea is now strongly suspected of developing nuclear weapons, which would have global consequences, and has developed missiles with an effective range of 1,000 kilometres.

He said South Korea would help the North whenever it was ready to abandon its nuclear ambitions, and join the global trend towards openness and cooperation.

Mr. Kim said he deplored that genuine peace had yet to come to the Korean peninsula, but the uneasy truce was lasted 40 years.

'U.S. to continue world leadership role'

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States is committed to a leadership role in world affairs — while seeking the active engagement of other nations — and also will work to help the United Nations develop a permanent peacekeeping system, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said.

In testimony to a House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, Ms. Albright said, "Much of our credibility as a superpower — and we must, in my view, remain one — will depend upon our ability to manage our approach" to international emergencies.

She said the United Nations peacekeeping system is "severely strained" at the moment, adding that the United States is "working hard" to help the world body develop a permanent peacekeeping strategy as it moves from its current improvisational peacekeeping system. "If we are going to have the United Nations play this role they have to be properly prepared and staffed," she said.

Answering questions from congressmen, she said the United States could be either "the world's cop... (or) an ostrich, (but) that is an impossibility. So

our option here is to be...the senior, managing or leading" partner in world affairs, a doctrine she referred to as "assertive multilateralism."

Individual nations or regions of the world, she emphasised, cannot be permitted to drift into chaos. "Cops are needed," she noted, "but I would rather be on that beat with other countries." "Though sometimes we will act alone," she said in her prepared statement, "our foreign policy will necessarily point toward multilateral engagement. But unless the United States also exercises leadership within collective bodies like the United Nations, there is a risk that multilateralism will not serve our national interest well."

Ms. Albright added: "Preventive diplomacy is the linchpin of assertive multilateralism. We are going to have to open our minds to broader strategies in multilateral forums. We need to project our leadership where it counts long before a smoldering dispute has a chance to flare into the crisis of the week."

Ms. Albright commended U.N. efforts to contain the conflict in the former Yugoslavia,

characterising as substantial multilateral actions "the continuation of humanitarian aid drops, enforcement of the no-fly zone," economic sanctions against Serbia and plans for a war crimes tribunal.

She also defended plans to dispatch 300 American troops as monitors in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, noting the placing of the monitor is part of the effort to keep the Bosnian conflict from spreading.

Questioned about the effectiveness of the Security Council, she said its effectiveness is "increasing" but added, "we believe it is important generally to make the United Nations reflective of the needs of the current world." Noting that Germany and Japan are "major economic powers," she said giving them seats on the Security Council "makes sense," adding they "should be made to bear responsibility for the keeping of the peace."

Asked how long the United States to keep troops in Somalia, Ms. Albright said that as far as she knows the goal is to withdraw them as other nations take "a greater and greater role" there.

Orsay Museum to showcase 72 masterpieces

PARIS (AP) — In what Culture Minister Jacques Toubon called the most generous example of French corporate sponsorship of the arts, two companies are footing the \$2.5 million cost of the Orsay Museum next fall. Seventy-two paintings including 20 Cezannes and 16 Renoirs, will make their first return trip to France since they were purchased by American collector Albert Barnes in the first part of the century. Mr. Toubon told reporters Monday that the Banque Nationale de Paris and Havas, a tourism and media conglomerate, had chipped in the money so that Paris could host the show from Sept. 8 through Jan. 2. The majority of art institutions worldwide lend paintings free of charge. Barnes Foundation President Richard Glanton said the fee would help pay for the \$8 million renovation and painting restoration project at the headquarters in Merion, Pa., outside Philadelphia.

Thieves steal ancient marble head from Greek museum

ATHENS (AP) — Greek police notified Interpol to be on the lookout for a sixth century B.C. marble head that was stolen from Athens' National Archaeological Museum. The head is part of a statue of a woman or of a sphinx — a mythical figure that is part lion and part human. Its theft from an exhibition area was discovered by officials of the country's premier museum Friday but police were only called in to investigate Monday, a police spokesman said. The sculpture was dug up at the Temple of Aphaia on the island of Aegina just off Athens and has appeared in various publications. The Culture Ministry suspended five museum guards, laid charges against unknown persons and ordered an internal investigation into the theft. Athens' mega Channel Television reported.

Women want male nudes in films — survey

NEW YORK (R) — Women are upset by female nudity in films because it sets an impossible standard but think in overwhelming numbers that there should be more male nudity, said a survey of 2,000 women by Glamour magazine. The survey released Monday said 86 per cent of women thought there should be more male nudity in films while two-thirds said they found the prevalence of female nudity on screen offensive. Forty-two per cent of the women surveyed, aged between the ages of 18 and 44, said they thought nude actresses set a standard the average woman cannot match. And 85 per cent said that much of the nudity seen on-screen was gratuitous.

Time gentlemen, please

LONDON (AFP) — Prison officials have put the cork in a clandestine distillery run by inmates at one of Britain's most modern high-security prisons, police said Sunday. Nearly 350 litres of wines and spirits distilled from various types of fruit sold in the prison canteen were seized at the jail near York, in northern England, they said. "The whole operation was sophisticated, brilliant," said assistant prison governor Colin Cason, after the distilling equipment, which involved bottles of hot water to speed up the fermentation process, was removed. Police said all inmates with technical or scientific expertise, or who had previously worked in breweries or distilleries, had been put under strict surveillance. Many of the prisoners had protested vehemently when the distillation equipment was dismantled, they added.

Atlanta expected to recognise same-sex couples

ATLANTA (R) — The Atlanta City Council is expected to grant at least partial official recognition to so-called "domestic partners" in a measure designed to allow homosexual couples to share some city employment benefits. Last Thursday, the council's finance committee approved a measure to allow same-sex couples to register their "domestic partnership" status with municipal officials as allowed in about 15 other American cities. Under the ordinance, the domestic partner of a city employee would be eligible for the same health care and dental benefits now available to the legal spouses of other city employees. But the committee struck a provision to include domestic partners in the city's pension system. Mayor Maynard Jackson has endorsed recognising same-sex domestic partnerships but has not commented publicly on the proposal before the council of the southern city of about 400,000.

Sampras into round of 16; Lendl disappears

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Top-seeded Pete Sampras overpowered Byron Black in a quick third-round match Friday, becoming the first man to reach Wimbledon's round of 16.

Black, a Zimbabwean who played at the University of Southern California, fended off seven set points before yielding the first set, but offered little resistance thereafter as Sampras won 6-4, 6-1, 6-1, in about an hour and a half.

Sampras' chief worry was a nosebleed in the middle of the second set, but he continued to dominate play after treatment by a tournament trainer.

In women's play, Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia upset 10th-seeded Magdalena Maleeva, the last survivor of the three highly ranked Bulgarian-born sisters. Basuki, a 6-4, 6-2 winner, also reached the fourth round here last year.

Moments earlier, Meredith McGrath, a qualifier from Midland, Michigan, earned the distinction of becoming the first player into the fourth round, upsetting fellow American Shaun Stafford, 6-1, 6-2.

McGrath, 22, is ranked only 148th, compared to 58th for Stafford, and in six previous Grand Slams had won only one match, at Wimbledon in 1990.

The women's top seed, Steffi Graf, was to play later Friday against Helen Kelesi of Canada, ranked 87th in the world.

The second round concluded Thursday with dramatic, but sharply contrasting losses by Ivan Lendl and Britain's Chris Bailey.

Lendl slipped away from the Wimbledon grounds without meeting the press, his dogged quest for a title here once again ending in failure, and perhaps ending for good.

Bailey, with a lifetime record of 14-29 and a No. 263 world ranking, walked off centre court to a tumultuous ovation after playing the match of his life.

He had just battled fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic through five sets of the most thrilling tennis so far in the tournament.

The Croatian resorted to a daring second-serve ace to save a match point before prevailing 5-7, 7-6

(7-3), 6-7 (7-3), 6-4, 9-7.

Lendl, 33, made his earliest exit from Wimbledon since a first-round loss in 1981. The 40-year-old didn't stay around to answer the inevitable questions about whether this would be his last try at the only grand slam tournament he's never won.

But Arnaud Boetsch, the 24-year-old Frenchman who beat him 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4, was willing to answer when asked if Lendl still had a shot at a Wimbledon title.

"The way he played, I don't think so," Boetsch said.

In addition to Lendl, 10th-seeded Andrei Medvedev was ousted Thursday. The top 10 women's seeds have reached the third round, the top six men.

Ivanisevic had a rest day Friday. He will need it after two straight five-set matches.

"Everything is sore now," the Croatian left-hander said after outlasting Bailey. "But this shows me that it's never over. You can fight.... I'll play all seven (matches) in five sets if I have to, just to win the tournament."

Bailey, 25, has been playing at Wimbledon since 1987, but won only two first-round matches against obscure opponents. This was his first time on centre court.

"To be able to perform like that is obviously very heartening for me," he said. "When I walked out there, it was great and everybody was cheering. It was just an unbelievable experience, and I want to do it next year."

He was still a bit stunned by Ivanisevic's match point-saving ace.

"I've never seen that before on second serve," he said. "That was hit or miss, and he made it."

Why take the risk, Ivanisevic was asked.

"Why not?" replied the Croatian. "I have to give it a try. I mean, if you hit a slow serve and he hits a great return, then you think, 'why didn't I go for something big'."

Though Bailey departed, head high, two other unsung Britons have reached the third round: Chris Wilkinson and Andrew Foster. It's the first time two British men have gone this far



Ukraine's Andrei Medvedev

since 1977.

Wilkinson's third-round opponent Saturday will be second-seeded Stefan Edberg.

"I have a chance of beating him," said Wilkinson, ranked 143rd.

A good chance?

"A chance."

Edberg glided to a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory in 99 minutes against Amos Mansdorf while former world number one Jim Courier also took his place in the last 32 with a 7-5, 6-1, 7-6 victory over Ronald Agener of Haiti.

The last of the women's second-round matches were also completed with no further loss of seeds. Martina Navratilova continued to look the most serious threat to top seed Steffi Graf with a 6-0, 6-4 defeat of South African Ros Fairbank-Nideffer.

Navratilova blames coaches for game's wrongs

There's something rotten in the game of tennis, and Martina Navratilova blames the coaches.

There aren't enough all-round serve-and-volleyers in the game, she feels, and the lack of creative coaching is the reason.

"They are coaching everybody the same way. Everybody looks like a clone out there. The stroke production is fantastic, but that's all. There's not much creativity," Navratilova said after her 6-0, 6-4 second round victory over Ros Fairbank-Nideffer of South Africa at Wimbledon Thursday.

"Kids come out of these schools and they know how to hit a forehand, a backhand, but they don't know how to serve, hit

volleys, overheads or off-balance shots. They (the coaches) just don't encourage it, they don't teach spontaneity at all."

Navratilova, who is pursuing a 10th Wimbledon singles title, was asked why the coaches were teaching that way.

Warning to her theme, she replied: "Because that doesn't win initially. An all-round game takes much longer to get good at and people are into rankings."

"They have to get to some kind of ranking level to get picked up by this association or that coaching school. Then you see kids in Texas avoiding tournaments at 12 and under because they want to keep their number five ranking for the rest of the year."

"Who the hell cares what ranking you have at that point?" she exclaimed.

The Czech-born American, seeded second behind Steffi Graf here, conceded that not many girls had modelled themselves on her in building serve-and-volley games.

"I don't get it," she said. "Because when Chris (Evert) first came around everybody tried to play like her. Then I came along and everybody still tried to play like Chris."

"Which is not a bad thing. But the net wins a lot, though it doesn't win when you're 12 and that's the problem."

Navratilova has learned a lot in recent years from working with Billie Jean King, who holds a record 20 Wimbledon titles in singles and doubles.

She said she thought she too would probably wind up doing some coaching — though she does not relish the idea of the travelling that would be involved in working with players on the circuit.

"I'm sure I will coach. I'm sure that, if there's some youngsters with a good head and a good heart and some talent. I would like to pass on that knowledge," she said.

"In fact, I have to because I promised Billie Jean that I would pass on whatever she teaches me."

"So that's a promise to her that I have to keep."

Marseille could be thrown out of league

VALENCIENNES, France (AFP) — Marseille could be stripped of their first division championship, and thrown out of the league if allegations of corruption are proved.

And president of relegated Valenciennes, Michel Coencas, has Thursday demanded they should be given a reprieve from the drop into the French second division, if the bribery scandal comes to light.

A key witness in an inquiry into claims Marseille tried to bribe Valenciennes players, before the match that clinched their fifth successive league title, has said he was paid more than 200,000 francs (\$40,000).

Valenciennes attacker Christophe Robert said the money was given to his wife by a Marseille player, believed to be Jean-Jacques Eydelie, sources close to the investigation said.

Police later discovered 242,000 francs in the garden of one of Robert's relatives in the Bordoigne.

Marseille president Bernard Tapie went to see the Valenciennes prosecutor Thursday night at his own request, his lawyer announced. No details were given on their meeting though.

Robert's confession came a month after a Valenciennes defender, Jacques Glassmann, alleged that Jean-Pierre Bernes, Marseille general manager, had offered him 200,000 francs to throw the match.

Robert and Glassmann were in the same room when they claim to have been contacted by Marseille.

The Valenciennes game has a week before the

European Cup final and with the league title wrapped up Marseille could relax and concentrate on beating AC Milan.

Marseille have denied the charges, and counterclaimed that Valenciennes tried to bribe Marseille officials and thereby avoid relegation.

Jean-Louis Leverreau, vice-president of Marseille, said "the full truth of this affair has to come out and exemplary punishments must be made if dishonest actions which cast a slur on football and the club's image are proved."

The French football league has the power to strip Marseille of the title and relegate them to the second division.

League president Noel Le Graet said: "Personally, I would like things to move quickly."

"But it's more important that this gangrene in football be cured, than the affair be settled quickly" in time for the start of the championship on July 24.

It is not the first time that Marseille's flamboyant president Bernard Tapie has had to deal with corruption allegations.

Marseille were cleared of paying for their first league title under Tapie in 1989. The bribing allegations made by Bordeaux president Claude Bezzack were found to be unfounded.

Tapie refused to believe in any of the corruption allegations. He said: "I don't believe any of this. Most of Marseille's players play for France or are internationals in their own countries. They therefore have no need to bribe their opponents to win matches."

LeMond to miss Tour de France

PARIS (AFP) — Triple Tour de France winner Greg LeMond of the United States is so short of form he is unlikely to start this year's race.

LeMond's GAN team manager Roger Legay said Friday: "For the moment, Greg is a non-starter for the Tour unless he can find out what's wrong with him and he can be cured in time."

The American, who will be 32 Saturday, was forced to pull out of this month's Tour of Italy after falling disastrously behind.

Earlier this week, he cracked in the mountain stages of the Route du Sud race in southern France and returned to his home in

Belgium. He has undergone a series of medical tests to try and pinpoint the cause of his loss of form.

The full results are expected next Tuesday but we will only start the Tour four days later if doctors believe they can find a quick remedy.

"We just don't understand what's gone wrong," added Legay, who said LeMond was "devastated" and had only a five percent chance of starting the Tour July 3.

"So far, the tests haven't shown up anything. It's strange that Greg should pull up like this, particularly after having followed near-ideal preparation program."

But he added: "It's the GAN team not the LeMond team, and I have to take a sporting decision. There's no question of Greg starting the Tour if he is only going to

abandon after five stages.

"If he is not there, we'll miss him a lot for sure. But the team has already produced good results without him."

The problems facing LeMond, who won the Tour in 1986, 1989 and 1990, will come as no surprise for fellow riders.

Ireland's Stephen Roche, himself a winner of the Tour de France in 1987, believes LeMond's career is heading downhill and doubts if he can reverse the trend, even if he does start the Tour.

"I don't think he can pull it off this year — I don't think he'll have it in the big mountains," Roche said recently.

"I do think he has had it — the general feeling among the riders is he's honest, is that it's finished for him. He has to believe it, deep down, even if he won't say it openly."

Women's tennis chiefs happy with Wimbledon security

LONDON (AFP) — Women's tennis authorities are satisfied with the security at the Wimbledon Championships despite Tuesday's incident involving world number one Steffi Graf.

Neither the Women's Tennis Association nor the Women's Tennis Council are planning any new measures on the tour at this stage.

Gerry Smith, executive director of the WTA, said it was not intended to set up a list of fans who posed a threat to players, even though German fan Kurt Zan Felde followed Graf from the French Open to Wimbledon.

"It's up to the players to come to us if they feel there something we should know," he said. "If a player comes up to us, we'll act to inform the tournaments about any fans who are likely to cause trouble."

"Players know to come to us. We'll be having a players' meeting at the next tournament and we will discuss safety then."

"Players were told of the security here at the meeting on Sunday. We have been in contact with Steffi's agent in the past about security. This man's name has not come up."

"Probably Steffi did not feel it was worth informing us about this person after the French tournament. She has said she is happy with the security here. It's a sad day when we have to discuss this



Security guards struggle to keep up with defending champion Steffi Graf as she sprints through the crowds of spectators outside the tennis court (AFP photo)

and not the tennis."

Anne Worcester, managing director of the Women's Tennis Council, emphasised that players

were keen to continue their close relationship with fans.

"Wimbledon does a good job with security," she said. "This is

the first time we've had to deal with an incident of this kind. It's unusual for a fan to appear in different places."

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UNICEF defeat J.T. in basketball friendly: The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) basketball team Thursday defeated the Jordan Times 37-25 in a basketball match held at Al Manhal court. The match, played more for fun than for victory, was attended by Al Ra'i Editor-in-Chief Mahmoud Al Kayed, Jordan Times Chief-Editor George Hawatmeh, UNICEF regional director for the Middle East and North Africa Edward Lannert and UNICEF and Jordan Times staff members. The hot weather affected the general atmosphere of the match which led to the low level of scoring for both teams, especially for the Jordan Times. At the end of the match, Mr. Kayed presented the UNICEF players with the trophy. Earlier the two teams met twice, with UNICEF winning the first 22-20, and the Jordan Times winning the second 32-30.

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TWO SINGLETON TRUMPS, TWO TRICKS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ J 10 7 5 3 2
♥ A Q 8 6 3
♦ 9 5

EAST

♠ K Q 5 4 3
♥ K Q J 7 5 4 2
♦ A K Q J 8 4 3 2

SOUTH

♠ J 10 2
♥ A K 9 8 6
♦ K 10
♣ 10 8 7

The bidding:

South West North East
1♣ 2♦ 3♣ 4♦
Pass 5♦ Pass 6♣
7♦ Dbl Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Continuing our saga of strange hands from the Summer North American Championships in Toronto is this unusual example. Each defender has but one trump, yet each collected a trick with it.

West's two-heart cue-bid showed the black suits and North's jump to

three spades promised shortness in the suit, either a singleton or void. South made a good decision by taking a sacrifice at seven hearts. West's double indicated a heart tenace, so East knew not to compete further. All that remained was to extract the maximum penalty.

West led the jack of clubs, continuing with the queen and then tried the king. Declarer did as well as possible by ruffing with the jack in dummy, but East was able to over-ruff. By leading touching honors in upside-down order, West was making a suit preference signal for the lower of the remaining side suits. In this case diamonds. East duly obliged, and West's ruff was the fourth trick for the defense.

That was absolute par on the hand. East-West can make six spades for a total of 1430, so minus 1100 for down four was as well as North-South could do unless East-West were silly enough to try seven spades. Fortunately, North-South had not bid diamonds along the route, so the chances for a fatal lead against a spade grand slam were considerably reduced.

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Opposition hopeful as Moroccans vote

RABAT (Agencies) — Moroccans voted Friday to elect their fourth parliament since independence in an election which could bring opposition parties into government for the first time in three decades.

Officials said the turnout averaged 71 per cent of the 11.5 million voters four hours after polling stations opened. They closed at 1900 GMT and results are not expected before Saturday.

The general election, the first in nine years, could open the door to the return to office of opposition parties after being in the political wilderness for 30 years.

"In a few weeks, in September at the latest, the opposition could enter government," the opposition Istiqlal daily L'Opinion said Friday.

The candidates have virtually all promised economic growth, more jobs, better health and education, a drive against corruption and improved human rights.

The winning party is slated to set up a government for the first time since independence from France in 1956.

Until now it has been King Hassan who designated the prime minister and cabinet. The change came in a constitutional amendment in 1992.

A single round of direct elec-

tions are being held to choose two-thirds of the 333-seat parliament.

The remaining deputies are to be chosen over the next few weeks by community councillors, trade associations and unions.

Running for parliament, which will sit for six years, are a total of 1,875 candidates from 11 parties, and 167 independents.

The old-guard Nationalist Istiqlal Party and its former foes in the Socialist Union of People's Forces (USFP) have banded together for the first time to present joint candidates for the 222 seats in the chamber of representatives.

They are backed by the two smaller leftwing parties.

The other 111 seats will be elected later indirectly by members of local councils, professional groups and trade unions.

Five centrist parties won an absolute majority of 215 seats in the last election which the opposition says was marred by so many irregularities that the parliament lacked credibility.

The four opposition parties had 85 seats in the outgoing chamber whose eight-year mandate expired in October.

"It made a lot of noise, but it was mostly snoring. It was like a dormitory," said a member of the outgoing majority.

Ciller forms cabinet

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey's new Prime Minister Tansu Ciller announced a coalition cabinet Friday in which she kept the same defence and foreign ministers and deputy premier.

"I think this will be a very successful government," Ms. Ciller, 47, told a news conference.

"We will have hard work for the initiatives and new reforms that have been started."

She promised a relentless struggle against "terrorism", referring to the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which struck at Turkish targets across Europe Thursday.

"My message to the world is to unite for a fight against terrorism," she said of the coordinated wave of PKK attacks.

"We will continue to show compassion for the people of the southeast without any ethnic discrimination," she added.

The PKK has fought a nine-year-old armed campaign for a separate state in the mainly Kurdish southeast, in which more than 6,200 people have been killed.

Ms. Ciller, who leads the centre-right True Path Party (DYP), reappointed Erdal Inonu, head of the junior coalition partner Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP), as deputy prime minister.

She also renamed Hikmet

Cetin as foreign minister and Nevzat Ayaz as defence minister but gave the Interior Ministry to Mehmet Gazioglu. He replaces Ismet Sezgin, who was beaten by Ms. Ciller in a contest for the DYP leadership on June 13.

It was not clear which minister, if any, would be in charge of the economy, a sphere in which Ms. Ciller, a U.S.-trained former economics professor, is expected to exert close authority.

President Suleyman Demirel, previously DYP leader and prime minister, approved Ms. Ciller's cabinet list earlier in the day.

Ms. Ciller signed a protocol with Mr. Inonu on Thursday to keep in power the coalition which has ruled since November 1991.

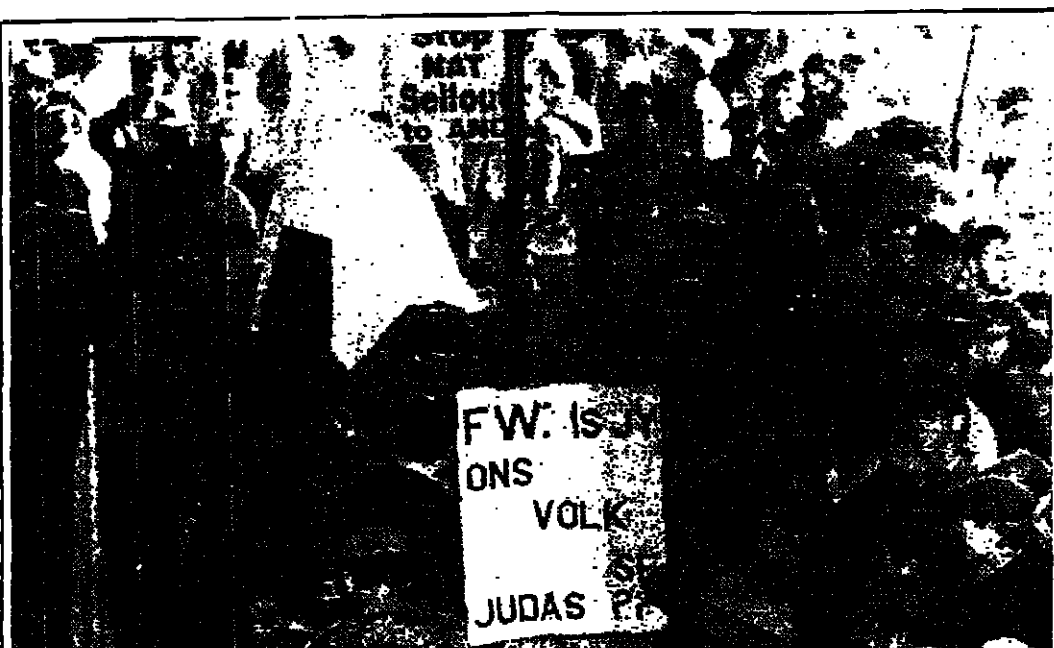
Ms. Ciller, Turkey's first woman prime minister, left in place all 11 SHP ministers from the previous government, leaving the cabinet balance unchanged.

But she changed most of the DYP ministers, who hold 20 of the 31 ministries.

Parliament last month elected Mr. Demirel president in place of Turgut Ozal, who died in April.

Three rebel Kurds killed

Turkish security forces killed three Kurdish militants and detained 43 others in southeastern Turkey Friday, Anatolian news agency reported.



WHITE WRATH Right wingers hold anti-de-Klerk South Africa's democracy talks Friday in Johannesburg and a Boer republic flag after storming embassy (see page 8)

Germany threatens anti-Kurd action after attacks in Europe

MUNICH (Agencies) — Germany Friday threatened to outlaw and deport Kurdish militants to prevent a repeat of violence that flared across the continent a day earlier, leaving one Kurd dead and scores arrested.

Officials are worried the Kurd's separatist war against Turkey could spread to Germany, where 1.8 million Turks live, among them nearly 400,000 Kurds.

Kurds attacked Turkish targets in six countries Thursday in their biggest action outside the Mideast. European police made at least 61 arrests, including more than 30 in Germany, where most of the violence occurred.

The violence continued Friday, with Kurds and Turks battling in front of the Turkish consulate at Karlsruhe, in southern Germany, after Kurds blocked the building's entrance. Police said five or six people were slightly injured before they moved in and made 100 arrests.

In Munich, 13 men who seized the Turkish consulate went before a magistrate. He was expected to confirm the charges of kidnapping and attempted coercion of the German government. The men could face 15 years in prison if tried and convicted on the charges.

The 13 — 12 Turkish citizens and a stateless man — released their last captives just before midnight after a 14-hour standoff. The men left the building with clenched fists raised in the air before boarding a police bus.

The government said it was stepping up its efforts to prevent Kurdish militants from exporting their fight for autonomy to Germany.

Interior Minister Rudolf Seiters proposed that his counter-

parts in other West European countries take up the matter at a security conference in Copenhagen next Tuesday.

"Everything must be considered, including looking toward an eventual ban" of violent Kurdish groups, said Mr. Seiters' spokesman Roland Bachmeier.

Mr. Bachmeier said German law authorities know little about operations in this country of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), believed responsible for Thursday's violence. The group has about 5,000 members in Germany.

"We are dealing with something that is like a phantom. It has a fluid structure and is hard to catch," Mr. Bachmeier said.

Mr. Seiters said the arrested Kurds might be extradited to Turkey.

Government spokesman Dieter Vogel said a decision on whether to ban the PKK, the main separatist group fighting central power in Ankara, would be made after an enquiry "into the structure of organisations that are backing the authors" of the hostage-taking Thursday.

He said Germany needed a "preventive strategy" to prevent a recurrence of Thursday's events.

In Ankara, Turkish Premier Tansu Ciller said Ankara would wage a fight "without let-up" against the PKK. He called on the international community to "act with Turkey."

"The PKK has nothing to do with ethnicity, neither in Turkey nor abroad. My message to the international community is to act together against terrorism," Ms. Ciller told reporters.

The 20 million Kurds, divided politically and spread across Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria and Armenia, are the world's biggest ethnic

population without its own country. They often are at war, and frequently are used as pawns in conflicts between neighbouring states.

In Bern, Switzerland, one Kurd was killed and seven wounded Thursday when Turks in the embassy fired at protesters. Kurds seized a Turkish consulate in Marseille but freed hostages unharmed.

Separatists tried and failed to get into Turkish consulates in Zurich, Geneva, and Lyon, France. Others smashed windows or furniture at Turkish-owned banks, travel bureaus and airline offices in 10 German cities and in London, Stockholm and Copenhagen.

The PKK leader, Abdullah Ocalan, recently vowed to make the summer "the bloodiest ever for Turkey" with attacks on the tourism industry and security forces.

The group accuses Turkey of attacking Kurdish villages even though the PKK offered a ceasefire in March. Both sides have been accused of atrocities.

The standoff in Munich began as the four-story stucco consulate opened for business on Thursday. The Kurds stood at the head of the line at a passport window, then overpowered Turkish Guards and took 23 hostages, according to police.

After negotiations with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's top aide, Bernd Schmider, the last nine women were freed just before masked police sharpshooters.

None of the hostages were injured, and no deal was made for the surrender, another Beckstein, the Bavarian interior minister, said at a news conference Friday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Basque militant gets 1,311 years for bomb attack

MADRID (AFP) — A Basque separatist militant has been jailed by Spain's highest court for 1,311 years for his part in a bomb attack on a police barracks which killed nine people and injured 44 two years ago. Juan Jose Zubeldia Zubeldia was sentenced Thursday in connection with the attack in May 1991 at Vic in the north eastern province of Catalonia, court officials said. He was found guilty of murdering nine people including five children and attempting to kill 44 others.

Togo president sets new election date

LOME (R) — Togo's government has said that delayed presidential elections were to begin on July 18, with a second round of Aug. 1. The announcement, broadcast on national radio, came two days after talks with opposition groups broke down over differences on election procedure.

New government named for Chad

NDJAMENA (AFP) — Chadian Prime Minister Fidel Moungar has formed a new slim-line government limited to 15 ministers and two deputy ministers. Ahmad Korom, a former diplomatic adviser to President Idriss Deby becomes foreign minister, according to the list made public Thursday. The Interior Ministry went to Ali Djalbord who was executive secretary of the inter-state committee against Sahel drought. Opposition party leaders in the old government retained their posts but several junior ministers lost their jobs. The transitional legislature had asked Mr. Moungar at the beginning of June to prune his team in accordance with a decision of the national conference to trim bureaucracy. The previous government had 31 members.

Ireland lifts ban on homosexuals

DUBLIN (AFP) — The Dail, the Irish parliament, lifted a 130-year-old ban on homosexuality Thursday in the latest of a series of profound changes to the country's traditionally rigid social legislation. Homosexuality is now legal in the Irish Republic between persons aged 17 and over — in most European countries the age of consent is either 15 or 16, although it remains at 21 in Britain. Under a Victorian law dating from 1863, which had not been enforced for some time, homosexual acts carried a penalty of penal servitude for life.

Bhutto's mother wants amnesty for son

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's mother, a 71-year-old widow, demanded an amnesty for her son Muratza so he could return home from 16 years in exile. She told reporters that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan should announce the amnesty, but said she would not advise her son to return if it was promised by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, whom she said she did not trust. Muratza has lived in exile abroad since a 1977 army coup toppled his father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as prime minister, who was later executed after a controversial conviction for conspiring to murder a political opponent. In recent years, Muratza has lived in Syria and is wanted by Pakistani authorities for alleged terrorist activities dating back to the 11-year rule of late military President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq.

India, China begin border talks

NEW DELHI (AFP) — China and India launched two days of confidence-building talks here Friday aimed at keeping the peace on their disputed border, officials said. The two sides, led by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan and Indian Foreign Secretary Jyotindra Nath Dixit, held 90 minutes of talks which focussed on a possible treaty to maintain "peace and tranquillity" on the frontier, the officials said. Mr. Dixit and Mr. Tang also had a one-on-one meeting during which they discussed bilateral and international issues.

Israel to appoint first Arab ambassador

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said Friday it would soon appoint its first Arab ambassador, probably to a European country. "We've already decided who the man is," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israel Radio. "It will certainly be made public soon." One Israeli Arab has served as a consul but the foreign ministry said this would be Israel's first Arab ambassador. Denying a report in the daily Al-Hamishmar that the man would be posted to a Muslim republic of the former Soviet Union, Mr. Peres said: "I prefer to appoint him to a European country." About 15 per cent of Israel's five million citizens are Arabs.

Cyprus court rejects freedom for Frenchman

NICOSIA (R) — The Cyprus supreme court on Friday turned down a petition to free Charles Altieri, wanted in France for the murder of a judge 12 years ago. He had filed a petition for habeas corpus after a district court ordered in May that he should be extradited to France. Mr. Altieri, 37, escaped in 1987 from a Swiss prison where he was serving a 20-year sentence for drug trafficking after which he was due to be extradited to France. A French court which sentenced Mr. Altieri in absentia in April 1991 heard that he was the driver of a motorcycle whose pillion rider died the shots which killed Judge Pierre Michel in Marseille in 1981.

EC to aid Lebanon in drug crackdown

BEIRUT (R) — The European Community (EC) promised on Friday to aid Lebanon in its campaign to stamp out drugs growing and trafficking which flourished during 15 years of civil war. Interior Minister Beshara Merhej told reporters after talks with EC representatives that all illegal crops, mainly cannabis, were being destroyed by troops and police. Mr. Merhej said his talks with the ambassadors of Britain, France, Spain, Germany and Belgium would produce results. "They will go on with their programme to help Lebanon fight this social disease," said Mr. Merhej.

UAE: Boycott of Israel still in force

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday denied Israeli reports that it would join Kuwait in lifting an "indirect" boycott of Israel. "The UAE affirms that the boycott of Israel is still in force and the boycott was a joint Arab decision. The reasons for such a decision still exist," a senior Foreign Ministry official told the news agency WAM. WAM said the official was reacting to an Israeli agency report Thursday that the UAE had informed the United States it would follow Kuwait's example.

Taiwan tells Chinese hijackers not welcome

TAIPEI (R) — A senior Taiwanese official, speaking after the second hijacking of a Chinese airliner to Taiwan in three months, said Friday the island would not welcome hijackers seeking asylum. "We welcome efforts by mainland compatriots to push for democracy, but we do not welcome hijacking. It is an act of violence," James Chu, spokesman for the ruling Nationalist Party, told reporters. Zhang Wenlong, 28, a former Chinese army officer, hijacked a Xiamen Airlines Boeing 737 to Taipei Thursday and sought asylum. The plane and 71 other people on board returned to China on the same day, and Zhang will stand trial in Taiwan.

Bagabinda vows to swear in elected president

ABUJA (AP) — Criticised at home and abroad for voiding national elections, Nigeria's military dictator said Friday that a democratically elected president will be sworn in on Aug. 27 as previously planned. General Ibrahim Babangida spoke to reporters after briefing senior military and police officers about the June 12 presidential elections, which he abruptly annulled on Wednesday. Gen. Babangida would not say who would be the new president of Africa's most populous state. Billionaire industrialist Moshood K.O. Abiola was leading by a wide margin when a court barred the release of results because of a lawsuit brought by Babangida supporters. Both Mr. Abiola and his rival, Bashir Othman Tafa, were good friends of Gen. Babangida, who formed their political parties and wrote their platforms.

LETTER FROM VIENNA

Bosnia on centre-stage

By Waleed Sadi

THE BOSNIAN situation turned out to be the subject that could make or break the World Conference on Human Rights in its second week. With the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) determined to put the item of Bosnia on the agenda of the Vienna conference in spite of the guidelines of the international human rights meeting that precludes raising specific country situations, the Islamic states concluded a deal with the African countries to second their demand that the Angolan conflict be also placed before the plenary session of the conference in return for receiving their collective support for the Islamic motion for discussing the Bosnian human rights situation.

The Western countries were bent on rejecting the OIC request for the inclusion of the Bosnian problem but faced with an Islamic-African alliance that can muster a two-third majority to bend the rules of the conference, they had to retreat in the face of the OIC-African demand for dealing with Bosnia and Angola on the same footing.

Still troubling from the Western point of view was the language of the Islamic draft declaration on Bosnia especially where it called for the lifting of the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims. The Western group contended that it would be outside the scope of a worldly human rights conference to call for lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia. Against the backdrop of the earlier urgent appeal by the conference for immediate and effective U.N. Security Council intervention in rump Yugoslavia that went unanswered, it was difficult to see how far any Vienna declaration on Bosnia would go to help out the beleaguered Bosnian Muslims.

Still the OIC member states believe that it would be ludicrous for the Vienna gathering to conclude its deliberations without a specific mention of the Bosnian conflict, a mere 200 kilometres away. Saudi Arabia and Pakistan spearheaded the move to adopt a separate declaration on Bosnia and both delegations made considerable effort to lobby for this procedure.

Meanwhile the drafting committee which was still busy drafting the final declaration of the Vienna meeting, incorporated several language on ethnic cleansing, genocide, systematic rape and summary execution, all human rights phenomena that characterised the Serbs' grave human rights violations. Egypt introduced an amendment that referred to such crimes against humanity and called for holding all culprits accountable internationally.

Ironically, the Russian Federation which is reputed to be among the prime supporters of the Serbs and the main supplier of their heavy military equipment, introduced another amendment calling for the protection of civilian population in armed conflicts and the application of the Geneva conventions on them.

When pressed by the Jordanian delegation to add language to the effect that states should be asked to refrain from supplying any state that commits such war crimes with any military or economic support, the Russian delegation's initial reaction was endorsement of the idea. On second thought, however, especially when the idea dawned on the members of the delegation, the Jordanian proposal was rejected. As a face-saving formula, the Russian delegation passed the buck to the Norwegian delegation for submitting their proposal. When the Norwegians were in turn asked to incorporate language that calls on states not to aid and abet the Serbs, they only promised to think about it. And this is where the issue stood one day before the end of the Vienna human rights extravaganza.

Campbell sworn in as Canada's premier

TORONTO (AP) — Kim Campbell became Canada's 19th prime minister Friday, the first woman ever to hold the post.

She and her ministers were sworn in at government house by Governor General Ray Hnatyshyn a short time after Brian Mulroney submitted the resignation of his government.

Ms. Mulroney, who had headed the government since 1984, tendered his resignation and that of his cabinet to Mr. Hnatyshyn.

Mr. Campbell recited a brief oath in both English and French. Canada's official languages.

Trying to set the tone for a leaner, meaner government, the new cabinet ministers arrived at Rideau Hall in taxis, rather than the usual limousines.

Keeping his promise to reduce the size of the government, the new prime minister appointed only 24 ministers, 10 fewer than the Mulroney government. Notable was the fact that Canada's first female prime minister reduced women in the cabinet from seven to five.

The number of government departments was pared from 32 to 23.

Jean Charest, the 35-year-old environment minister from Quebec who came from far behind and nearly defeated Ms. Campbell in the leadership race, was named deputy prime minister and minister of industry, science and consumer and corporate affairs.

Perrin Beatty, who had been communications minister under Mr. Mulroney, takes over as secretary of state for external affairs, and Tom Siddon, formerly head of Indian affairs and northern development, takes over Ms. Campbell's post at defence.

Aideed rivals seek deeper U.N. role

MOGADISHU (R) — Rivals of fugitive warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed called on the United Nations Friday to all but take over the running of Somalia — the very thing General Aideed violently opposed.

Eleven political groups aligned with self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammad said the U.N. should sponsor new peace talks, disarm and police the whole country, and take over what assets have not been looted and Somali embassies and buildings abroad.

"We must do everything in our power to help the U.N. in its noble mission to save Somalia. We are calling on our people to talk peace and propagate brotherhood," said the deputy leader of one faction, Awad Ashraeh of the United Somali Party.

He and leaders of the other factions denied that their call was an attempt to seek favour with the United Nations, further marginalise Gen. Aideed's Somali National Alliance (SNA), or put the country under U.N. trusteeship.

There was no immediate response from the U.N. to the appeal by the 11 factions, who aligned themselves with Mr. Ali Mahdi against four other groups loosely led by Gen. Aideed.

"We're studying it. We're basically supportive of anything that will help restore peace and accelerate rehabilitation," U.N. official said privately.

A document issued by the 11 urged the convening of a fresh national reconciliation conference after marathon talks in the Ethiopian capital earlier this year.

If held, these would force the SNA to produce a new leader if Gen. Aideed were still in hiding to avoid an arrest warrant issued over the June 5 killing of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers.

They called on the U.N. to

"take control of all public assets and building in and outside the country and to protect the natural resources and environment such as marine resources, wildlife, forestry..."

Somali leaders accuse Japanese and Korean fishermen of plundering their waters, which contain one sixth of the world's known stocks of tuna.

They also fear that unscrupulous leaders might accept bribes to allow foreign companies to dump toxic waste in the Indian Ocean or on Somali land sites. One attempt to do this was uncovered by journalists last year.

Hundreds of Aideed's backers took to the streets again on Friday to denounce what they called United Nations attempts, orchestrated by the United States, to recolonise them.

It was small compared to the daily demonstrations that have been held since Gen. Aideed went into hiding eight days ago. But it ended with vitriolic attacks on the U.N. special envoy for Somalia, Jonathan Howe, and U.S. President Bill Clinton and the stoning of reporters they accuse of being spies.

AFP adds: Pakistani troops exchanged fire with Somali gunmen in the streets of Mogadishu Friday after a series of shooting incidents overnight, the United Nations command here announced.

A Pakistani motorised patrol was fired on in the early afternoon when it approached close to a demonstration against the U.N. forces in the country (UNOSOM) by some 500 Somalis. The Pakistanis returned fire.

At about the same time, guards at the U.N. compound exchanged shots with snipers, said UNOSOM military spokesman David Stockwell.

No casualties were reported in either incident.

COLUMN

U.K. Queen Mother unveils De Gaulle statue

LONDON (AP) — Returning to work after missing some engagements last week, Queen Mother Elizabeth Wednesday unveiled a statue of Charles De Gaulle outside his war-time headquarters. Looking pale and at times a little unsteady, the 92-year-old mother of Queen Elizabeth II nonetheless chatted animatedly with guests at the ceremony. Last week she was absent from the annual Garter ceremony at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and later missed all of the Royal Ascot races. Royal spokesmen said she had a mild case of flu. "It gives me very great pleasure to unveil a statue of Charles De Gaulle, a great Frenchman, a great patriot, whose life and achievements were so important to France and to us," said the Queen Mother, widow of Britain's war-time monarch, George VI. Guests included members of Gen. De Gaulle's family, including his son Admiral Philippe De Gaulle.

Anyone want a \$1 million bicycle, gold included?

TEL AVIV (AP) — For anyone looking for a golden opportunity to get into perfect shape, a Swiss jeweller may provide you with the answer in exchange for \$1 million. That is the starting auction price for a gem-studded bicycle with golden pedals and chains that went on sale here Wednesday. The bicycle is designed to be used, down to the small air pump stuck in the ostrich-hide covered handlebars. Aside from the 1.188 grams of gold and platinum, the bicycle comes with its own off-road manager. The carbon fiber frame is painted with African animals decorated with emeralds, rubies, yellow sapphires, onyx, malachite and diamonds. The bicycle, designed by Swiss artisan Volker Rhenisch, was displayed during a Tel Aviv gathering of the International Coloured Gemstone Association, an organisation of miners, cutters and traders from 38 countries. The bidding that started Wednesday was private and the sales price will not be revealed, said Cheryl Kremkow, an association spokeswoman.

Michael Jackson plans Hong Kong start to tour

HONG KONG (AFP) — Pop megastar Michael Jackson plans to kick off his "dangerous" world tour in Hong Kong in August, entertainment industry sources said Friday. "There are still a couple of details to be sorted out regarding the venue and dates," one source told AFP. But Aug. 15-16 have been set aside as "working dates" for Jackson's two-night stand in the territory, with a 30,000 seat horse-racing track in suburban Sha Tin the most likely venue. Formal announcement of the shows is expected sometime next week. After Hong Kong, the 34-year-old American "King of Pop," is expected to take his "dangerous" tour of Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan. Gigs in Australia, India, Israel, Turkey and Latin America are also anticipated before Jackson takes his show into North America next year. Though there are no immediate plans for Jackson to go to China, the source said the idea was under discussion.

Scientists breed pigs for human transplants

LONDON (R) — British scientists are breeding special pigs that may revolutionise transplant surgery by providing cheap supplies of organs. After eight years of research, scientists at the Cambridge company Imutran revealed they had produced "Astrid" — a transgenic pig carrying human genes. Transgenic pigs have been bred before but Astrid is the first to contain the human gene decay accelerating factor which may prevent a human body rejecting transplant organs. "What we have got is the basic platform from which to start. Now we have to perfect the strain until we arrive at a point where organs can be transplanted without being automatically rejected," a spokesman for Imutran said. "Astrid will not be used as a supply of organs but for research so we can perfect the breed," John Wallwork, head of the transplant team at Papworth Hospital in Cambridge who has worked with Imutran, told the Evening Standard newspaper. "What we are trying to do is a biochemical way is to cheat the human immune system into accepting a foreign organ into it," he added. Since Astrid was born in December scientists have bred 32 piglets carrying human genes.